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RECORDS OF  
THE FAMILY OF KING

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN IN ENGLAND

THE PILGRIMAGE OF 1926

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVENTH MIDDLESEX

THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALERS IN THE HOLY LAND

THE SEALS OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

THE RULE STATUTES AND CUSTOMS OF THE HOSPITALERS, 1099-1310

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN



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*From a photograph by Lafayette.*

COLONEL EDWIN JAMES KING, C.M.G., D.L., J.P.

AIDE-DE-CAMP TO THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE V,  
KING EDWARD VIII, AND KING GEORGE VI.

HIGH SHERIFF OF MIDDLESEX.

*Frontispiece.*



# RECORDS OF THE FAMILY OF KING

*Formerly of Leigh-upon-Mendip,  
Somerset*

BY

COLONEL E. J. KING, C.M.G., A.D.C.,

M.A. (OXON), F.S.A., F.R.HIST.S., F.R.NUM.S.



*Printed for Private Circulation*

LONDON

1937

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY  
JOHN WRIGHT AND SONS LTD.,  
STONEBRIDGE HOUSE, BRISTOL.

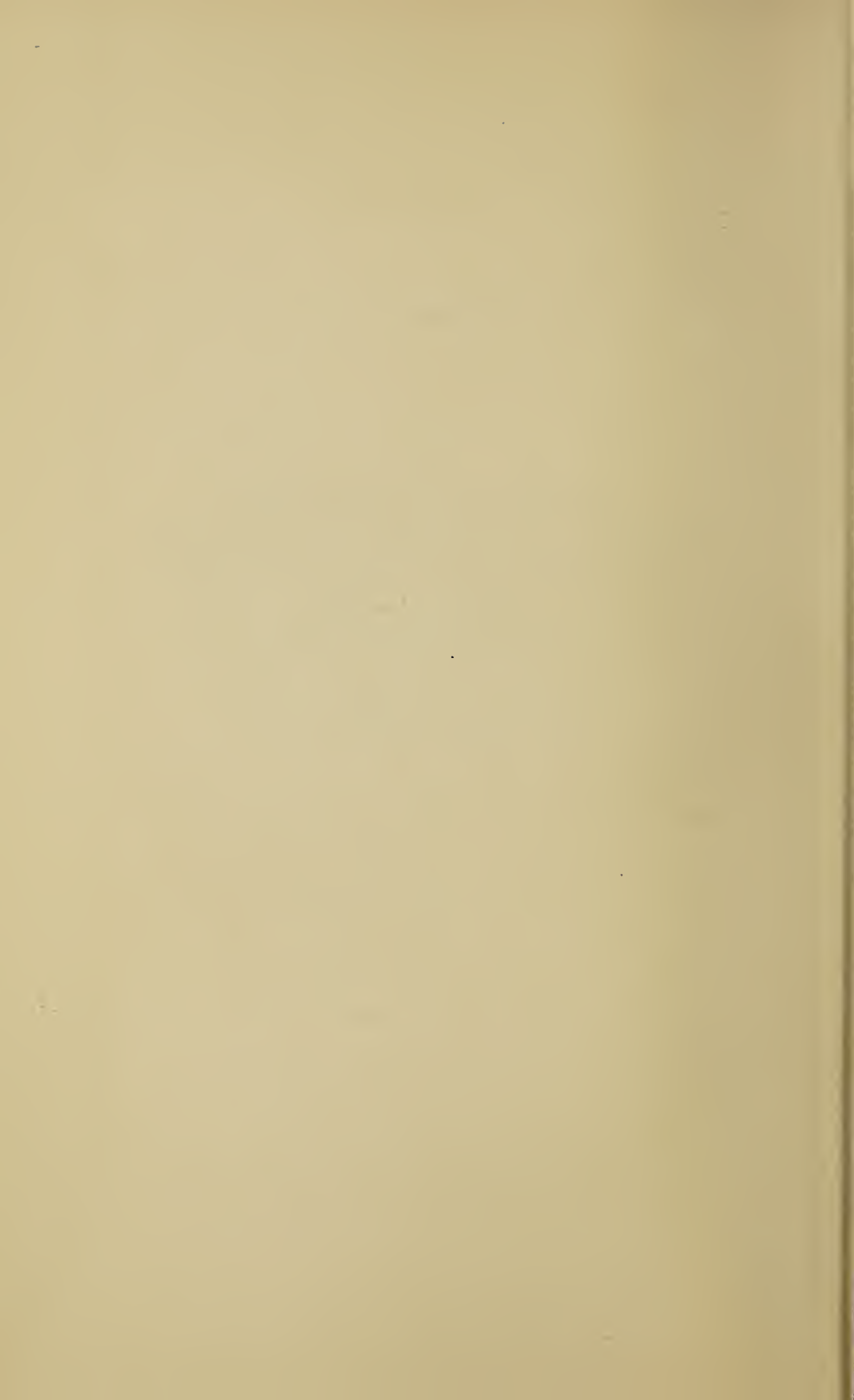
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TO

THE MEMORY OF MY BROTHER,  
THE LATE MAJOR LEONARD REGINALD KING,  
WHO WAS ALWAYS SO DEEPLY INTERESTED  
IN THE HISTORY OF HIS FAMILY,  
AND WHO COLLECTED SO MUCH OF  
THE MATERIAL HERE INCLUDED,  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

Leonard - #7150





## PREFACE

IT is now over one hundred years since the economic changes caused by the Industrial Revolution compelled our forefathers to abandon their once prosperous native village in Somerset, and to seek their fortunes in London. In its new environment that shrewd hardworking God-fearing yeoman stock, from which we are sprung, has taken firm root, and in many of its branches has flourished exceedingly. The time has now arrived when the origin and earlier history of our family would speedily be forgotten for ever, if it be not placed upon record in a form easily accessible to future generations. Few of the ordinary middle-class families that rose to prosperity during the golden age of Queen Victoria's reign, can trace back their records for three hundred years, and in ensuring that these records shall be preserved, the author hopes and believes that he is rendering to his family a service not without value, and that probably will be appreciated more and more with the passage of time. It is his earnest hope that the printing of these records may help to bind more closely together all branches of our family, in the knowledge of their common origin, and in the consciousness of the sacred ties of blood relationship. For his observation and experience of life have taught him that it is just those families, which cling closely together, facing the world as one united whole, and pushing each other's interests whenever possible, that rise steadily generation after generation in honour, distinction and wealth. In the history of families as in the history of nations, 'l'union fait la force'.

Forty years have now elapsed since the author first began to collect from the older members of the family information relating to its origin and earlier history. In 1911 he and his brother, the late Major Leonard King, who was always so deeply interested in everything concerning his family, determined to make a systematic investigation into all existing records. In that and the following year they made a series of visits to Somerset, and as a result of their researches, in 1913 they recorded a pedigree of ten generations in the College of Arms. On their subsequent petition to the Earl Marshal, a warrant was issued to the Kings of Arms for the granting and assigning of Armorial Ensigns to be borne by the descendants of the late Edwin King, their father. But with the passage of time it became increasingly probable that this grant would become extinct in the male line, and to prevent this occurring, its limitations were recently extended to include all the descendants of the late Isaac King, their grandfather. The result of these first researches was printed in pamphlet form in 1913, but some of the deductions there made need modification, in the light of further discoveries. Since that date a large number of letters, from William King of Leigh-upon-Mendip, to his eldest son Abraham Dyer King, have come into the hands of the author, and much further information has now been collected. He feels that it is a duty, that he owes to his family, to ensure that this mass of information should not be allowed to pass into oblivion, and he hopes most sincerely that its publication may give pleasure, not only to the present generation, but to generations yet to come.

*July 29th, 1937.*

E. J. K.

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## THE HEADS OF THE FAMILY

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ABRAHAM DYER KING . . . . .	1851-1866
FRANCIS WILLIAM MARK KING, J.P. . . . .	1866-1920
ABRAHAM EDWARD KING (Brother) . . . . .	1920-1923
HENRY CHARLES KING (Cousin) . . . . .	since 1923

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*Note : Where the relationship is not given the descent is  
from father to son.*

PART I

THE HISTORY OF THE FAMILY



# RECORDS OF THE FAMILY OF KING

## CHAPTER I

### THE YEOMEN OF ENGLAND

**I**N the year 1830 the three patriarchs of our family, Abraham, Isaac, and David King, on the death of their uncle Mark King, a builder at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, to whom they were apprenticed, decided to go up to London and there to seek their fortunes. To return to their native village of Leigh-upon-Mendip was utterly impossible; changed economic conditions had ruined its prosperity for ever; it was already in an advanced stage of decay, its ancient industries had died out, and its once considerable population was dwindling rapidly. There was no opening for ambitious young men in a decayed country village, with a population now consisting for the most part of agricultural labourers.

For two hundred years our family had resided at Leigh-upon-Mendip in East Somerset, and the first recorded incident in its history is the birth there in 1647 of Thomas King's eldest son William. According to an ancient tradition this Thomas King, our first known ancestor, had taken refuge at Leigh during the Great Civil War, owing to his home having been burnt during the troubles. If that tradition is correct, and there is not the slightest reason for doubting it, this incident must in all probability have taken place in the summer of 1643, when the Royalist forces under Sir Ralph Hopton, advancing out of Cornwall,

overran the West Country, and carried terror and dismay throughout East Somerset, a district strongly Puritan in sympathy and devotedly attached to the cause of the Parliament. But exactly where the original home of our family lay is now completely forgotten, and all that can be said upon the subject with any certainty is that it is not likely to have been very far distant from Leigh-upon-Mendip. All the traditions of our family are centred in East Somerset, and there is every reason to suppose that from time immemorial it was settled in that district. Its origins must be sought amongst those numerous families of King to be found in Frome and Wells and the neighbouring villages, from the days when surnames first began to come into regular use in the thirteenth century.

All through its history the relative social position of our family has shown extraordinarily little variation, when we take into consideration the vast changes in society which have been brought about by the transformation of England from a primitive agricultural country to the greatest commercial and manufacturing nation that the world has ever known. Its fortunes have risen and fallen and risen again in accordance with the changing industrial conditions of the country, and it has always belonged to those middle classes, who are the real backbone of our race, upon whose enterprise and industry and capacity the ultimate prosperity of our nation always has and always must depend. The very name of our family is reminiscent of that class from which it has sprung, and the name of King was doubtless originally given to some thirteenth-century Yeoman, from the part that he was accustomed to take in those religious pageant plays so popular in medieval village life. From the beginning to the end of their career in Somerset our family belonged to the Yeoman class, and when William King died at Leigh-upon-Mendip in 1851, he describes himself in his will as a Yeoman, the last of our family to be so described.

In the days when England was a purely agricultural and pastoral country, and towns were small and unimportant,



the Yeomen constituted the great bulk of what we now call the middle classes. They were free men and farmers, forming an intermediate class between the military aristocracy, and that great mass of unfree labourers and artisans, who were chained to the soil. The medieval Yeomen, more than any other section of the population, may be regarded as the representatives of the original English conquerors of our native land. It is in them pre-eminently that we see preserved the character and qualities of the English that have made our mixed race what it is. The unfree labourers and artisans seem obviously the descendants of the conquered races, whilst the aristocracy were for the most part sprung from the somewhat disreputable French adventurers brought in by the Norman Conquest. In the words of Bishop Stubbs, in his great Constitutional History, the Yeomen were 'a body which in antiquity of possession and purity of extraction was probably superior to the classes that looked down upon it as ignoble'.

The Yeomen first begin to become prominent in English history with the Hundred Years' War, when they provided those famous archers, who gained the glorious victories of Crécy and Agincourt, and reigned supreme on every battlefield in Western Europe. As Trevelyan tells us in his *History of England*, 'from the Hundred Years' War onwards, the yeoman motif runs through English thought, literature and politics, with a potent and life-giving force, right down to the coming of the Industrial Revolution'. During the thirteenth century the Yeomen are best defined as 'the small freeholders of the feudal manor', and were practically identical with the freeholders owning land worth 40s. a year, the equivalent of £50 a year at the present day, who exercised the Parliamentary Vote under the act of 1430. Many of the Yeomen however were only tenant farmers, as we know from Bishop Latimer's famous sermon before King Edward VI, where he speaks of his father as being a Yeoman, but only renting his land. They were an exceedingly prosperous class, which furnished from its



younger sons the retainers of the great lords, the men-at-arms and archers for the wars, and the merchants and traders of the towns. The introduction of the cloth-trade in the fourteenth century, and the growth of the village industries arising out of it, brought immense wealth to the only class able and ready to handle it, and in Somerset one hundred years later the Yeomen had reached the zenith of their prosperity, as we can see at the present day from the magnificent Perpendicular churches erected at that period in nearly every village.

During the age of the Tudors, although the Yeomen freeholders still continued to flourish, the decline of the class as a whole was really beginning with the formation of the large sheep farms. The decline was greatly accelerated during the eighteenth century, when the larger land-owners began systematically to buy up the small freeholders, and the Yeomen as a class became increasingly dependent upon the still vigorous village manufactures, which were entirely in their hands. The final blow to their prosperity came with the arrival of the Industrial Revolution, and the development of the factory system. The local village manufactures could no longer maintain themselves under the new conditions, they were slowly and gradually ruined, and quietly faded out of existence. The old happy self-contained village life, with all its varied interests, which had gained for our country the name of 'Merry England', was at an end, and few remained behind in the once prosperous country villages except the agricultural labourers. All through the eighteenth century we find the Yeomen drifting into the towns, often to become the founders of the great business firms of modern England. Those that remained behind became poorer and poorer, life in the country became more and more impossible, until they too were forced to migrate to the towns, or sink to the level of the labourers around them. Such were the causes that forced our own family, like most other families of their class, to leave their native village in order to seek their fortunes in London.

## CHAUCER'S YEOMAN

The earliest and at the same time, the most famous description of a Yeoman that we possess, is that given by Chaucer in his Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, written about 1387, where he depicts the Knight accompanied by his Squire and a Yeoman, of whom he writes :—

‘ A Yeoman had he, and servants no more  
At that time, for him listè ridè so ;  
And he was clad in coat and hood of green.  
A sheaf of peacock arrows, bright and keen,  
Under his belt he bore full thriftily—  
Well could he dress his tackle yeomanly ;  
His arrows droppèd not with featherès low—  
And in his hand he bore a mighty bow.  
A nut-head<sup>1</sup> had he with a brown visage,  
Of woodecraft well kened he all the usage.  
Upon his arm he bore a gay bracer,  
And by his side a sword and a buckler,  
And on that other side a gay dagger,  
Harnessed well and sharp as point of spear ;  
A Christopher<sup>2</sup> on his breast of silver shone,  
A horn he bore, the baldrick was of green,  
A Forester was he, soothly as I guess ’.

<sup>1</sup> A nut-head is the term used to describe a head with the hair close-cropped like a nut.

<sup>2</sup> A Christopher means a medallion bearing an image of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers.

## CHAPTER II

### THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

THE history of a family can never be rightly understood without some knowledge of the history of the district from which it is sprung. A family is largely moulded by its environment, its changes of domicile are frequently the result of historical and political events, and upon the economic history of the district its occupations necessarily follow. We are all greatly influenced by heredity—the traditions and character, the ideas, interests and ambitions of a family, are the inevitable results of its past, and to understand that past is impossible without a knowledge of local history. From it we are able to understand the characteristics of that earlier generation in London, their thrift and industry, their stern Puritanical religious views, their rigid radical politics, until with increasing prosperity the next generation became first Liberals and then Conservatives. All these things become understandable only in the light of history, and a short historical sketch of the County of Somerset, therefore, needs no further apology.

The county probably takes its name from the town of Somerton, the first centre in it of English administration. It is rich in legendary history, some genuine and some due to the over-vivid imagination of the medieval monk. Bath was said to have been founded by Bladud, son of the British King Lud, who by bathing in its healing springs, was cured of his leprosy. The monks of Glastonbury loved to claim St. Joseph of Arimathea as their founder, and related how he built the first church in Britain on the land granted to him by King Arviragus. From his staff



struck into the ground on Wirriall Hill sprang the Holy Thorn, and at his death the Holy Grail was buried on Chalice Hill. But the most famous of the legends relate to the English conquest. The Romanized east of Britain, with its spiritless population of agricultural serfs, was ripe for conquest, but the West Country could draw a supply of good fighting men from the untamed tribes of South Wales and the Devon-Cornwall peninsula. In consequence, what was afterwards Somerset became the centre of Roman-British resistance to the English invaders, under two great leaders Aurelius Ambrosius and Artorius, better known in legend as King Arthur. The latter drove back the English in the Battle of Mount Badon in 520, and gave peace to the land for forty years. He is said to have held his court at Camelot, now Cadbury Camp, and when he fell in Lyonesse in battle against his nephew Modred, his body was conveyed to Avalon, an ancient name for Glastonbury, and there laid to rest, and there also was laid the body of Guinevere his queen, repenting too late of her faithlessness.

The English advance westward was resumed at the end of the sixth century, but for a long time the future county remained debateable ground between the English and the Welsh, and it was not until the reign of Ine, King of Wessex (688-726), one of the greatest of the early kings, that the Shire of Somerset was formed. The king fixed his frontier against the Welsh of Devon and Cornwall along the line of the River Parrett, with Taunton and Exeter as outlying border fortresses. The river long remained a racial boundary, and down to the present day there is a marked difference in character and tradition between the people of East and West Somerset. St. Aldhelm was appointed to be the first bishop of the new see of Sherborne, and the revered apostle of Somerset lies buried at Doultong, near Shepton Mallet. It was King Ine also who reorganized the half-ruined Welsh Abbey of Ynyswytrin under its new English name of Glastonbury, with Beorwald as its first English Abbot. Somerset must have remained half Welsh for many a long

year to come, and King Alfred in his will (900) refers to some of his manors there as being amongst the Welsh. But gradually the English conquerors imposed their language and customs upon the conquered race, until at last the only traces of them left are a few scattered place names.

With the reign of King Alfred (871-900) and the Danish Wars, the heroic period of Somerset history begins. It was only in the frontier districts, where constant raiding prevailed and there were still fresh lands to conquer, that the English had retained their old restless fighting spirit. In the Romanized agricultural districts they had long settled down as peaceful farmers, and with the exception of Wessex had fallen easy victims to the Danish invasions. It was naturally therefore upon Somerset and the West that King Alfred had to rely in his desperate struggle with the Danes, as King Arthur had done 350 years earlier. The crisis of the war came in 878. Driven behind the River Parrett by the Danish leader Guthrum, the King fixed his headquarters at Athelney, and there reorganized his forces. Hubba son of the famous Viking Ragnar Lodbrog, landing at the mouth of the river, tried to turn the King's flank, but was defeated and slain by Odda, Earl of Devon, at Cynuit, now Combwich, and the Raven Banner fell into the hands of the victor. Then the King moved against Guthrum, and at Ethandune in the Polden Hills<sup>1</sup> won the decisive victory that saved Wessex. Guthrum consented to be baptized at Aller, near Athelney, and at Wedmore the famous treaty was concluded that partitioned England between the Danes and the English. In memory of his great victory King Alfred founded the monastery of Athelney. In the later Danish wars against Sweyn and Canute, Somerset played the same heroic part, and her fighting men were the mainstay of Edmund Ironside (1016) in his short but gallant struggle against Canute. The

<sup>1</sup> Not Edington in Wiltshire, as so many historians state, misled by the arbitrary identification made by the antiquary, Camden.



hero King was buried at Glastonbury, like his ancestors before him, Edmund the Magnificent and Edgar the Peaceful.

At the Norman Conquest (1066) England again fell an easy victim to invasion after a single battle, and the only serious resistance was in the North and West. It was not until 1068 that William the Conqueror was able to bring the western counties under control; Exeter surrendered to him after a short siege, and the whole country was mercilessly harried. Nevertheless in the following year when news came of a fresh rising in Yorkshire, assisted by a Danish army, the whole West Country again blazed up in revolt, and the people laid siege to the new French castles at Exeter and Montacute. The revolt was finally crushed out by Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances. The result of the conquest was the confiscation of practically the whole of the land in Somerset. The English lords of manors were reduced to peasants, and the horde of cosmopolitan adventurers who followed the banners of the new King, took their place. The kind of mercy that they meted out to the native English, whom they despised, is well exemplified by the horrible incident that took place in Glastonbury Abbey. Thurstan, its first Norman Abbot, desired to introduce a new style of chanting, which the English monks hated, and met by passive resistance. The Abbot thereupon called in a body of French soldiers, who shot down the monks in the abbey church; three were killed and eighteen wounded on the steps of the altar, and the very crucifix which hung above was pierced by their arrows.

The ideal of the new French landowners was absolute sovereignty within their petty lordships, with the power of life and death over their unhappy serfs, and the right to make war on their neighbours. The weaker the King's government, the nearer they could approach to their ideal. From the horrors that they perpetrated there grew up among Englishmen a hatred and loathing for all Frenchmen, that perhaps has never quite disappeared, and was to find a terrible vengeance in the Hundred Years' War. The hideous tyranny and oppression that the people suffered at

their hands, reached its climax during the anarchy of King Stephen's reign (1135-1154), and has been described for us by a contemporary writer in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

'They filled the land full of castles; when the castles were made, they filled them with devils and evil men. Then they took those men that they imagined had any property, both by day and by night, peasant men and women, and put them in prison for their gold and silver, and tortured them with unutterable torture. Many thousands they killed with hunger; I neither can, nor may, tell all the wounds and all the tortures, which they inflicted upon wretched men in this land. They laid imposts on the villages continually, and when the wretched men had no more to give, they robbed and burned all the villages, so that you might well go a day's journey, and should never find a man sitting in a village, or the land tilled. Wretched men died of hunger, some went seeking alms, who at one time were rich men, some fled out of the land. Never yet had more wretchedness been in the land, nor did heathen men (i.e., the Danes) ever do worse than they did. If two or three men came riding to a village, all the village fled before them, imagining them to be robbers. Men said openly that Christ and His Saints slept.'

One good thing the Norman Conquest brought in its train, and that was a government strong enough to prevent further serious invasion, and England has never since known a foreign conqueror. From now onwards the economic history of Somerset becomes of greater importance than its political history. During the thirteenth century the county began to emerge from the purely agricultural stage, an important trade in wool sprang up, and cloth-making, stocking-making, and other allied industries developed, which ultimately placed the Yeomen of Somerset amongst the wealthiest and most prosperous of their class in England. Almost every town was dependent upon the cloth trade, which was particularly flourishing at Wells, Frome and Bath. The trade reached its highest degree



of prosperity during the fifteenth century, and under the Tudors was seriously declining. During the age of the Stuarts it was almost ruined by foreign competition, but it still remained an important industry throughout the eighteenth century, and is not yet by any means extinct.

The Wars of the Roses had little adverse effect on the prosperity of Somerset. The county was strongly Lancastrian in its sympathies, but the people played no active part in a civil war which was used by the great feudal families for fighting out their ancient quarrels. Long before the struggle began, the county had been kept in a state of uproar by a private war between Lord Bonville and the Courtenays of Devon, and in 1451 the Earl of Devon had actually laid siege to Taunton. When the Courtenays changed sides and became Lancastrians, Lord Bonville at once transferred to the Yorkist party. The disturbances ended with the defeat of the latter at Clist Heath, near Exeter, in 1455, and the ancient feud was fought out to the bitter end beyond the borders of the county in the great battles of the Wars of the Roses. Queen Margaret's landing at Weymouth in 1471, and her subsequent march through Somerset to the fatal field of Tewkesbury, had no serious results for the trading and manufacturing classes.

The political history of Somerset does not again become of importance until the end of the century. In 1496 the support given by the King of Scotland to the Pretender, Perkin Warbeck, who claimed to be a son of King Edward IV, rendered war imminent, and the government was compelled to raise a heavy subsidy. The new taxes caused widespread discontent, and in the following year the Cornishmen rose in revolt under a lawyer Thomas Flammock, and Michael Joseph a blacksmith. The Receiver of Taxes fled to Taunton, and was there murdered by the rebels on their occupation of that town. The men of Devon and Somerset rose in sympathy with their neighbours, and the rebel army advanced to Wells, where it was joined by Lord Audley, who assumed command. He marched straight on London, with the intention of compelling King Henry VII

to change his ministers, but was utterly defeated and taken prisoner at Blackheath. Undaunted by this disaster the men of the West Country then called upon Perkin Warbeck, who was in Ireland, to come over and place himself at their head. The Pretender accepted the invitation with alacrity, was proclaimed King under the title of Richard IV, occupied Taunton and captured the castle. But on the arrival of the royal forces under King Henry VII in person, Perkin Warbeck's courage failed him, and he deserted his army and fled to Beaulieu Abbey. His troops thereupon laid down their arms, and received a free pardon. But Somerset was heavily fined for the part that it had played, especially the towns of Taunton, Bridgwater and Wells.

With the Reformation the people of the West Country were entirely out of sympathy, and they long remained loyal to the faith of their fathers. The reformed religion had no martyrs in Somerset, and it was adopted in the first instance only because it was forced upon the people by the Government. The Visitation of the Monasteries in 1535 caused universal unrest, and the dissolution of the lesser monasteries the following year was accompanied by considerable disturbances, especially at Taunton and Bridgwater. The Government however acted vigorously, and when the greater monasteries were suppressed in 1539, there was no further outbreak. The last of the monasteries to be dissolved was the greatest of them all, Glastonbury, regarded as the most sacred spot in England, the English Jerusalem, the second Rome, and the Mother of Saints, as men loved to call her. The venerable old Abbot, Richard Whiting, then eighty years of age, with John Thorne the Prior, and Roger James the Treasurer, were martyred on the Tor, for refusing to deny the Pope's spiritual supremacy over the Church, and the faith in which they had been born and bred. The old Abbot's head was set up over the gateway of his monastery, and his quarters were sent to Wells, Bath, Ilchester and Bridgwater. These are the only martyrs of the Reformation period in Somerset; Richard Whiting was afterwards

beatified, and his memory is preserved by Roman Catholics to the present day with the utmost veneration.

Deeply though the religious feelings of the West Country had been stirred by the Dissolution of the monasteries, it was not until the compulsory use of the first Protestant prayer-book was ordered in 1549, that the religious discontent came to a head in the rebellion known to history as 'The Rising in the West'. The Cornishmen were the first to take up arms in defence of their faith under Humphrey Arundel, and they adopted as their standard a representation of the Five Wounds of Christ. As in the revolt of 1497, they determined to march on London, and compel the King to change his ministers, but they were prevented from doing so by their unsuccessful siege of Exeter. The rebellion spread at once to Devonshire, and the men of Somerset were preparing to take up arms, when the rapid advance of the Government forces under Lord Russel effectually prevented any extension of the movement. Exeter was relieved, the rebels were defeated at Sampford Courtenay, and the revolt was stamped out amid scenes of horrible barbarity, in which 5000 West Countrymen died for the faith of their fathers.

With the dissolution of the monasteries and the religious reformation that followed, the medieval history of Somerset comes to an end, and its modern history begins. The wholesale confiscation of monastic property had brought with it great changes in the ownership of land, and new families, soon to be famous, begin to come to the front, a change which is well expressed in the West Country lines :—

‘ Popham, Horner, Wyndham and Thynne,  
When the monks went out, they came in ’ ;

or in its variant :—

‘ Horner, Paget, Portman, Thynne,  
When the monks stepped out, you stepped in .



### CHAPTER III

#### THE NAME AND ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY

**S**URNAMES were originally appended to the names of individuals to describe them more closely, and were afterwards extended to the descendants of the first holder, thus gradually becoming hereditary. By the thirteenth century they were beginning to come into general use as family names. All surnames, as a rule, belong to one of the four following groups :—

1. Names derived from places such as Hill, Wood, Sandford, Norton, Ashby.
2. Patronymics such as Richardson, Morrison, Williamson, or their Anglo-French equivalents, Fitz Richard, Fitz Morris, Fitz William.
3. Words denoting occupation or office like Smith, Potter, Bayliffe, Constable, Forester.
4. Nicknames like Gray, Whitehead, Longfellow, Goodheart, Stepto.

With the exception of the patronymics, these names were originally preceded by certain appropriate prefixes, such as 'le, de, del, atte, by, under', etc. These are generally in French, because it was still the official language during that period in which surnames were in process of formation. It is not until the middle of the fourteenth century that these prefixes begin to disappear, when French ceases to be the official language.

The name of King belongs to that group of surnames derived from occupation or office, and is of the same class as names like Pope, Bishop, Abbot, Duke, Earl, Monk, Baron, Lord, Knight, etc. It is commemorative of the festivities and amusements of our forefathers. At one time

every great house at Christmas appointed its King of Misrule to supervise the merrymaking proper to that season. On May morning in every country village a King and Queen were installed, whilst at certain seasons the religious pageant-tries and morality-plays, so popular in medieval life, regularly took place. At the feast of the Epiphany especially, the visit of the Magi, who were always regarded as royal personages, was celebrated in nearly every village. Whilst the details regarding these festivities varied in different places, the custom was always more or less the same. A village feast was held, one of the company was elected King, the remainder, according to the lots they drew, being either ministers of state, or maids of honour. As late as 1648 the poet Herrick writes of these village festivities in his *Hesperides* :—

‘ For sport, for pageantry and plays,  
Thou hast thine eves and holidays :  
Thy wakes, thy quintels, here thou hast,  
Thy Maypoles, too, with garlands graced :  
Thy Mummeries, thy Twelfe-tide Kings  
And Queens, thy Christmas revellings ’.

It is no doubt from a thirteenth-century Yeoman playing some such part in one of the villages or towns of East Somerset, that our family derives its origin and name. The oldest form of the name was ‘ le Kynge ’, and in past times it was spelt indifferently with a ‘ y ’ or ‘ i ’, and with or without the final ‘ e ’. The prefix ‘ le ’ was dropped about the middle of the fourteenth century, but the spelling did not finally crystallize in its present form until the end of the seventeenth century. The name is very common in East Somerset, especially in and around Wells, Glastonbury and Frome. As early as 1333, in the Exchequer Lay Subsidy Rolls for Holcombe, near Wells, we find a certain Walter le Kynge, who is shown as the wealthiest man in the parish. In 1342 we find one John le Kynge playing an important part in the local politics of Wells. The Bishop was the feudal lord of the town, which was always struggling to



obtain its freedom, and a charter of incorporation. In 1340 the situation had become so strained that Bishop Ralph de Salopia was granted a licence to fortify his palace. The next year the long-desired Charter was granted, but only under a mistake due to misrepresentation, and it was accordingly cancelled the following year on the Bishop protesting. At once rioting broke out in Wells, John le Kynge assumed the leadership of the citizens, and the Bishop's officials were prevented from collecting the feudal dues. The Bishop appealed to the Crown, and the citizens were ultimately compelled to pay him heavy damages. There seem always to have been Kings at Wells, as there were at Frome, and a century and a half later, in 1483, a certain Richard King presents a book containing a life of St. George to the Church of St. Cuthbert in Wells.

The knowledge of the original home of our family, before the vicissitudes of the Civil War compelled our first known ancestor to take refuge at Leigh-upon-Mendip, has now unfortunately been lost. But there is no reason whatever why it should not some day be discovered, when the parish registers of East Somerset are at last printed and published and made available for reference, as should have been done long ago. When that time arrives, it ought to be possible to trace back the history of our family at least until 1538, when parish registers were first instituted<sup>1</sup>, or possibly even further with the aid of Wills and of Manor Court Rolls. One slight clue that may be of assistance, we already possess in the fact that shortly after the first appearance of Thomas King in the parish registers of Leigh-upon-Mendip, we find the marriage recorded in 1654 of an Elizabeth King to a certain Andrew Sparke, and the baptism in 1656 of

<sup>1</sup> Parish Registers were instituted in 1538 by Thomas Cromwell, the Vicar-General, in imitation of the system introduced into the Low Countries by the Spaniards. In 1597 it was ordered that copies of Parish Registers should be sent annually to the Diocesan Register to be kept amongst the episcopal archives. These copies are known as 'Bishops' Transcripts'. The Parish Registers of Leigh-upon-Mendip were begun in 1566.

Joan King, the daughter of Henry King.<sup>1</sup> Since the name of King is previously entirely unknown in these parish registers, the sudden presence at the same time of three of that name, seems scarcely likely to be due to mere coincidence. It would seem at least possible, if not highly probable under the circumstances, that when Thomas King took refuge at Leigh-upon-Mendip, he was accompanied by a sister, Elizabeth King, and a brother, Henry King. Moreover, Elizabeth in full, or in one of its abbreviations of Betty or Betsy, is a very common family name, and the name of Henry also occurs. If therefore we could find the baptism of these three recorded, between the years 1620 and 1640, in the parish registers of one of the neighbouring towns or villages, the problem would probably be solved. It is just possible that the Elizabeth King, whose baptism is recorded at Frome in 1633, might be the sister of Thomas and Henry King. Unfortunately we have no other record of her father George King, and therefore do not even know if he had other children ; moreover George is not one of our family names.

All that we can at present say concerning the probable place of origin of our family, is that Frome and Wells and the surrounding villages fulfil the necessary conditions, and that such indications as exist point to that neighbourhood. Firstly, family tradition never suggests that the flight to Leigh-upon-Mendip took place from any great distance. Secondly, Frome and Wells and the neighbouring district suffered severely from the Royalists in 1643, and the villages of Mendip were swarming with refugees from the neighbourhood, just before the first appearance of Thomas King. Again, it is possibly not without significance that so many of the earliest recorded marriages of daughters of our family took place at Frome and Wells. Lastly, but by no means least, Frome and Wells were centres of the stocking trade, in which our family was apparently engaged

<sup>1</sup> A certain Henry King married Jane Selfe at Frome in 1663 ; it might be the second marriage of the same individual.

from the very beginning of its recorded history, and to which it owed all its early prosperity. So important indeed was the stocking trade at Wells, that one of its seven City Companies was that of the 'Stocking Makers and Woolcombers'. The Company died out about 1793, and its records have unfortunately not been preserved, or we should probably have been able to find in them some reference to our family. As we have already seen, the name of King is to be found in Wells from the very beginning of its history, and the same applies equally to Frome. We may safely assume that our family had its original home somewhere in this neighbourhood, with the odds somewhat in favour of Frome, or one of the villages in its immediate vicinity.



## CHAPTER IV

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR

WITH the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, the history of our family emerges from the dim obscurity of conjecture into the clear light of certain knowledge. Since the collapse of the ' Rising in the West ' in 1549, the history of Somerset is almost devoid of incident, but the transition stage from medieval to modern life was completed. The reformed religion in course of time gained as firm a hold upon the hearts of a naturally religious people as the old faith of their fathers had possessed, and in the industrial districts of East Somerset assumed that advanced evangelical form known as Puritanism. In the constitutional struggle with the Stuart kings, the old spirit of vigorous independence so characteristic of the West Country once more asserted itself, and a sturdy resistance was offered to the attempts at taxation without the consent of Parliament. When the long drawn-out struggle at last blazed forth into Civil War, the industrial districts stood firmly by the Parliament and Constitution, although the great landowners and the agricultural districts west of the Parrett, were for the most part Royalists. The Marquis of Hertford as Lieutenant-Governor of the Western Counties, in August 1642 attempted to mobilize the Somerset Train Bands for the relief of Portsmouth, but the people assembled in arms at Chewton under Sir John Horner, Colonel Popham and Colonel William Strode, and drove him out of the county. All the West now declared for the Parliament, except Cornwall, where Sir Ralph Hopton was beginning to organize the Royalist levies.

By their gallant stand for liberty and freedom, for conscience, and the true Protestant faith as they conceived it

to be, the men of East Somerset had preserved their county from the horrors of civil war for nearly a year. But in May 1643 the tide turned, when Sir Ralph Hopton began that brilliant campaign which riveted the Royalist control upon the West for the next two years. Defeating Lord Stamford the Parliamentary General at Stratton on May 16th, Hopton drove him out of Devon, and on June 4th reached Chard, where he was joined by a strong column from Salisbury under Prince Maurice and the Marquis of Hertford, bringing his forces up to 7000 men. To meet the new danger, Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary General operating in the Severn Valley, concentrated at Bath. But the spirit of enthusiasm that had animated the West Country the previous year had been followed by a dangerous reaction; men felt for the moment that the cause of freedom was lost, and the war practically over. All serious resistance in Somerset completely collapsed. Taunton was occupied on June 5th, Lord Hertford took Bridgwater the following day, and on the 7th Dunster surrendered. The retreating garrisons were rallied by Colonel Popham and Colonel Strode at Glastonbury, but Lord Hertford coming up from Somerton, they fell back upon Sir William Waller, who had now advanced from Bath to Chewton to their assistance. An indecisive engagement was fought with the pursuing cavalry under Prince Maurice at Chewton, and then the forces of the Parliament fell back upon Bath, whilst the main Royalist army on June 11th occupied Wells, and halted there for ten days. The city was mercilessly pillaged in spite of all that Hopton could do to prevent it, the countryside was treated as a conquered territory, and every village in Mendip was swarming with refugees.

It was no doubt during this month of June 1643, that Thomas King fled for refuge to Leigh-upon-Mendip, where his descendants were destined to remain for the next two hundred years. Probably Thomas King, like most of his friends and neighbours, had taken part in the armed assembly at Chewton in August 1642, which had resulted in the expulsion of the Royalists, and so had



every reason to fear the reaction that followed upon Hopton's occupation of Wells. But all that tradition has handed down to us is that his home was burnt during the Civil War, and that he took refuge at Leigh.

From Wells the Royalist army advanced through Shepton Mallet and Frome to Bradford-on-Avon, thus cutting Waller's communications with London, and on July 6th made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Bath in the Battle of Lansdowne. For a time the Civil War passed away from Somerset, and men were able to settle down again to their ordinary occupations. But life was not too pleasant under the domination of the now triumphant Royalists. At Nunney, three miles from Leigh, Richard Prater declared for what seemed to be the winning side, admitted a Royalist garrison to Nunney Castle, and received a colonel's commission as its governor. The castle was held for the express purpose of keeping in order a district notoriously loyal to the Parliament. Early in 1644 the four western counties, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, were organized in a Western Association, on the model of the Parliamentary Eastern Association. But the Committee for Somerset was a complete failure, and, except by impressment or requisition, neither men money nor material was available for the King's service. Ground down under the iron heel of military law, passive resistance was the only form of opposition possible.

With the summer of 1644 the West again became the scene of active operations. The Earl of Essex attempted its recovery, and after throwing a garrison into Taunton, marched into Cornwall, only to suffer a crushing disaster at Lostwithiel on September 1st. The presence of the main army of the Parliament brought King Charles into the West in person. He was at Bath on July 15th, and on the 17th spent the night at Mells, only two miles from Leigh, leaving his escort at Kilmersdon. He had hoped that his presence might rally the people to his support, but whilst curiosity caused them to flock to see him, they could not be induced to offer any assistance.

For Somerset the whole interest of the Civil War now centred in the three Sieges of Taunton, held by the most famous of the heroes of the county, Colonel Robert Blake of Bridgwater, soon to be even more famous as one of our three greatest admirals, though the story of how he drove Van Tromp from the seas, and sailed the channel with a whip at his mast-head, belongs to national rather than local history. The autumn of 1644 saw the first siege, but though driven into the castle, Blake held out for two and a half months until relief came. With the following spring the blockade, which had never ceased, developed into a second siege, and a series of desperate attempts were made to capture the town. We can imagine with what breathless suspense the events of this famous siege were followed in the villages of Mendip. How the people rejoiced over the gallant words of Blake, when summoned to surrender by Sir Ralph Hopton, 'I have four pairs of boots left, and I'll eat three before you have Taunton'. Then came the story of the attempt of traitors to set the town on fire at the moment of assault, and Blake's contemptuous reply when Hopton threatened to put every living soul to the sword, except seven, unless he surrendered, 'Give me the names of the favoured seven, and their bodies shall be sent to you'. At last came the news of the relief by Colonel Weldon on May 11th, long kept as a day of public rejoicing. It was commemorated in a local ballad, and a new verse of praise and gratitude was added to the one hundred and thirty-sixth Psalm—

'O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious :  
and His mercy endureth for ever.  
Who remembered us at Taunton :  
for His mercy endureth for ever'.

The gallant defence of Taunton is among the greatest feats of arms in which Somerset men have ever been engaged, and the spirit of deep religious enthusiasm, and intense local patriotism that it evoked, were still felt a generation later, when the people rallied to the cause of



the Duke of Monmouth, whom they loved to call the Protestant Duke.

As has been already stated, it seems probable that our family took part in the rising at Chewton in the opening scenes of the Civil War, and, as a result, had their home burnt, and fled to Leigh. But we have no reason to suppose that subsequently any of them played any active part in the war, or some vague memory would almost certainly have been handed down by tradition. We must rather expect to find them amongst the ranks of the Clubmen during those stirring times, like most of their neighbours. The Civil War had brought much misery and suffering in its train, especially in the West. The Royalist commander, Lord Goring, though lacking neither in ability nor courage, was dissolute and treacherous, cruel and corrupt, and is one of the most repellent figures of the war, whilst the conduct of his troops was a byword throughout the countryside. His cavalry, by their excesses, established a veritable reign of terror, and butchery rape and robbery were the unfailing signs of their presence, so that a contemporary writer remarks: 'It makes one's heart ache to hear the talk of any who come from Somerset'. Lord Goring and his colleague Sir Richard Grenville, alienated even the most devoted of the King's adherents by their rapacity cruelty and debauchery. In consequence, as in many other counties, the Yeomen and middle and lower classes generally began to band themselves together under the name of Clubmen for mutual protection against the depredations of the armies of both sides. By the summer of 1645 the Clubmen of East Somerset were fully organized, and presented a petition to the Prince of Wales at Wells. Lord Goring in vain endeavoured to conciliate them, and on June 30th they were strong enough to publish a proclamation threatening to punish all plunderers, and promising protection to all deserters who had been pressed into either army against their will.

Meanwhile the summer had seen yet a third siege of Taunton, but it was little more than a blockade, and at the

end of a month, the 'New Model' army of the Parliament, flushed with the victory of Naseby, marched to its relief under Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell. At Langport on July 10th 1645 the decisive battle was fought, which restored peace and liberty to Somerset. Goring's troops broke at the first attack, and fled in utter rout to Bridgwater, with a loss of 300 killed and 2000 prisoners. The army of the Parliament had only 20 men killed, and well might Cromwell write of so complete and bloodless a victory, 'To see this, is it not to see the face of God?' At Middlezoy the leaders of the Clubmen met in conference with Sir Thomas Fairfax. As a result, under Colonel Popham, they opened a guerilla warfare against the hated Goring, stopping his supplies, killing stragglers, and by holding the roads across Mendip, prevented him from falling back upon Bristol.

Fairfax after storming Bridgwater on July 23rd, advanced to Wells, and received the surrender of Bath on the 30th. Detained by the siege of Sherborne, it was not until the middle of August that he could deal with Nunney Castle, which had so long held down the district round Leigh-upon-Mendip. On August 18th he reached Castle Cary, and sent Rich's regiment and Fortescue's regiment with three guns through Bruton and Wanstrow against the castle. The bombardment began on the 19th and a small breach was opened. Richard Prater, anxious to save his property from useless destruction, thereupon offered to surrender, and changing his allegiance to hold the castle for the Parliament. On the following day the surrender was accepted, and the garrison of eighty Irish musketeers, under Captain Turberville, marched out. But Colonel Prater failed to benefit by his time-serving, the castle was dismantled by the orders of the Parliament, and his property eventually sequestrated. At the Siege of Bristol Fairfax received valuable assistance from the Clubmen, and when Prince Rupert capitulated on September 11th, the war was at an end, so far as Somerset was concerned, except for the siege of Dunster Castle, which did not fall until the following



year. The last echo of the Civil War was the flight of King Charles II through the county after his defeat at Worcester in 1651, the King finding refuge at Abbot's Leigh, near Bristol, at Castle Cary, and at Colonel Windham's house at Trent near Yeovil.

## APPENDIX

## THE BALLAD OF THE RELIEF OF TAUNTON

*May 11th, 1645*

The eleventh of May was a joyful day,  
When Taunton got relief;  
Which turned our sorrows into joy,  
And eased us of our grief.

The Taunton men were valiant then,  
In keeping of the town,  
While many of those, who were our foes,  
Lay gasping on the ground.

When Colonel Massey,<sup>1</sup> of the same  
Did understand aright;  
He like a man of courage bold,  
Prepared himself to fight.

With that our soldiers, one and all,  
Cast up their caps and cried,  
'What need we fear what man can do,  
Since God is on our side?'

Long time did Goring lie encamped  
Against fair Taunton Town;  
He made a vow to starve us out,  
And batter our castle down.

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Massey, the heroic defender of Gloucester, commanded the troops of the Parliamentary Western Association, and it was he who relieved Taunton on July 9th, the day before the Battle of Langport. But the relief on May 11th was effected by Colonel Weldon.

Within our castle did remain  
    (A garrison so strong)  
Those likely lads which did unto  
    Our Parliament belong.

Before daylight appeared in view,  
    The news to them was come ;  
That Goring and his cursed crew,  
    Were all dispersed and gone.

But who can tell what joy was there,  
    And what content of mind  
Was put into the hearts of those,  
    Who'd been so long confined ?

Our bread was fourteen pence<sup>1</sup> per pound,  
    And all things sold full dear,  
Which made our soldiers make short meals  
    And pinch themselves full near.

Our beer was eighteen pence per quart  
    (As for a truth was told)  
And butter eighteen pence per pound,  
    To Christians there was sold.

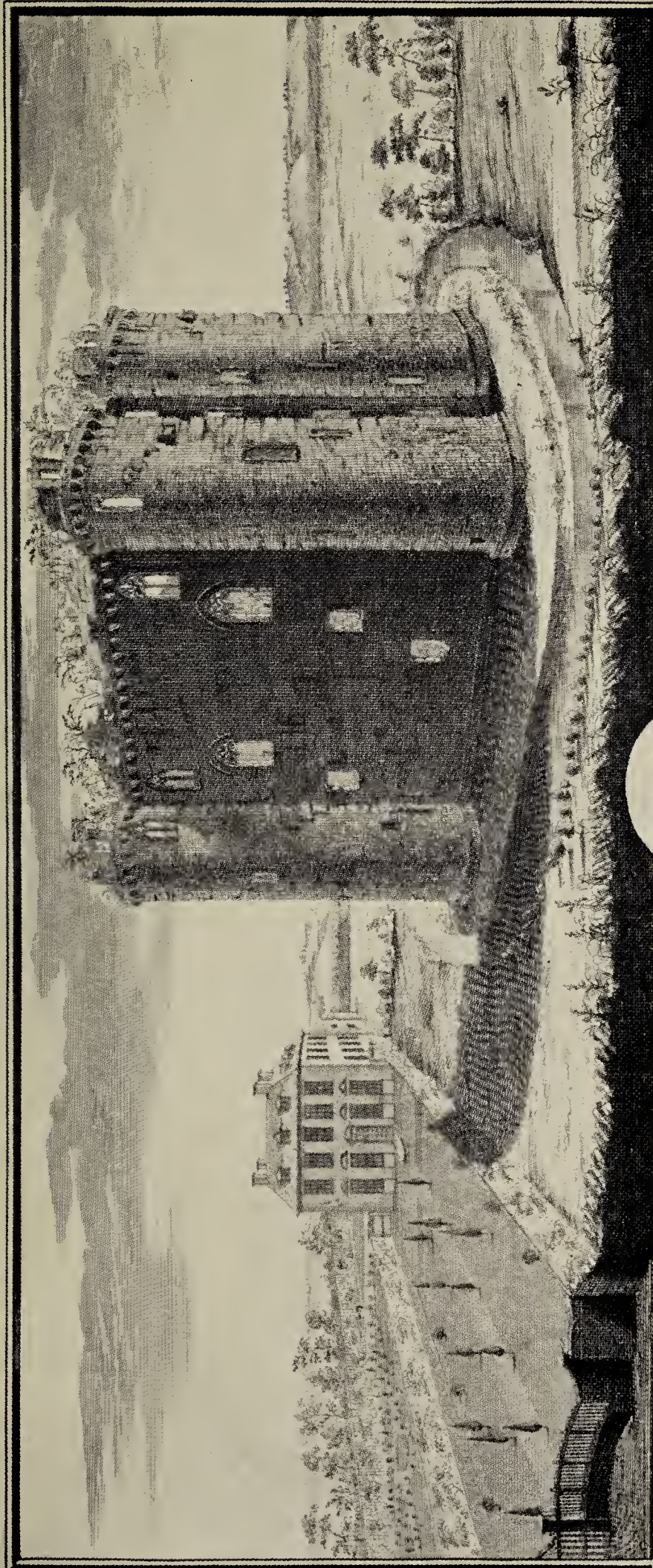
The Cavaliers dispersed with fear,  
    And forcèd were to run,  
On the eleventh of May, by break of day,  
    Ere rising of the sun.

Let Taunton men be mindful then  
    In keeping of the day ;  
We'll give God praise, with joy always,  
    Upon the eleventh of May.

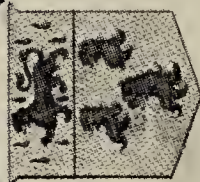
<sup>1</sup> With the changed value of money this is the equivalent of about 5s. at the present day, or even more, and shows what terrible privations the garrison had to endure.



THE NORTH EAST VIEW OF NUNY CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.



To John Whitechurch Esq.  
 This Prospect is gratefully Inscribed by  
 Your Obedt Servt.  
 Saml. & Nathl Buck.

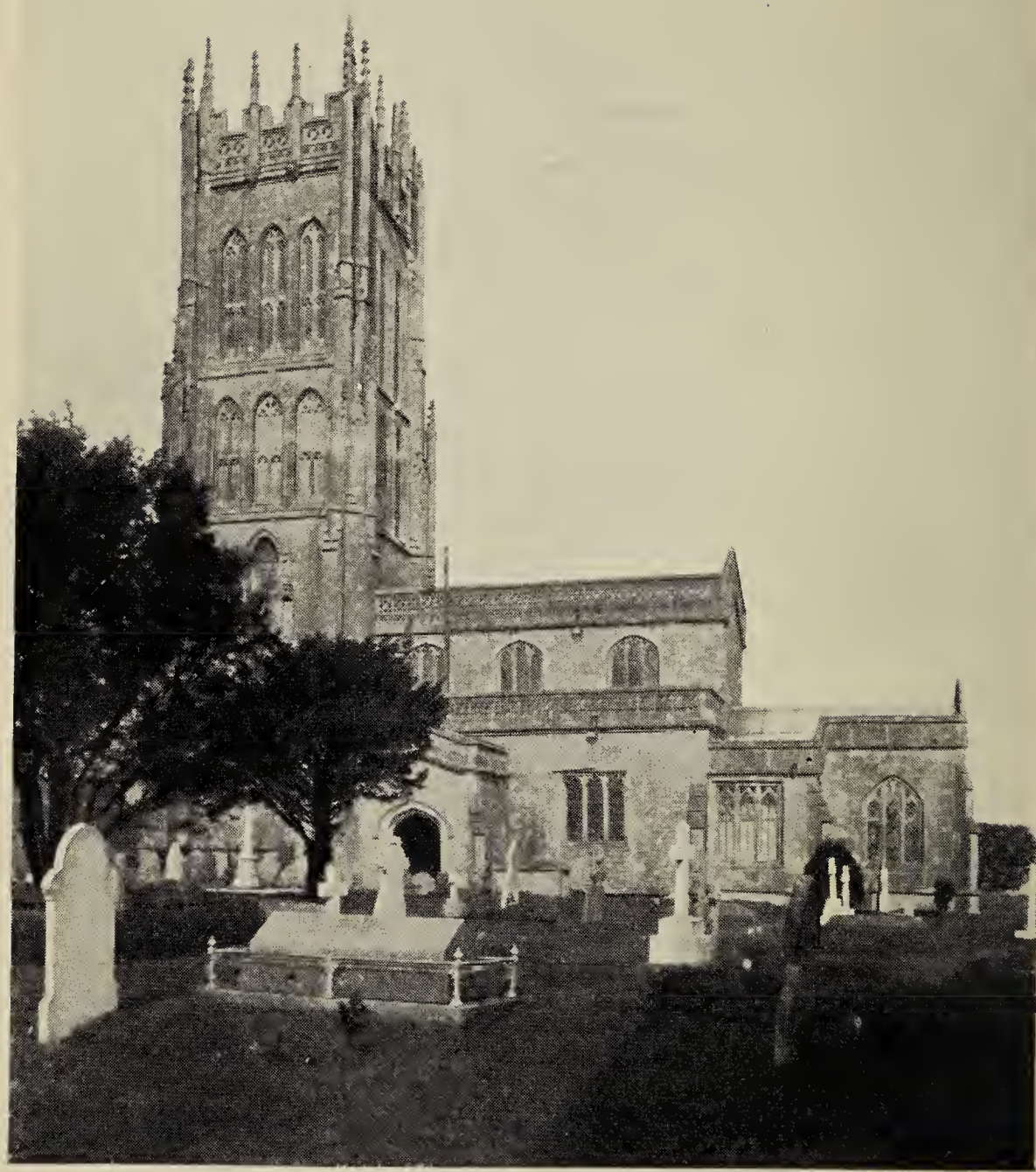


THIS CASTLE having been for many Ages the Seat of the Family of Delamare, in the time of Sir Buck. It by an Heiress past into the Family of Paulet, thence to the present Duke of Beaufort. In y<sup>e</sup> time of R. 2<sup>d</sup> of Mary<sup>e</sup> of Winchester sold it to John Prater Esq. whose descendants sold it to W<sup>m</sup> Whitechurch Esq.

See W<sup>m</sup> Buck's Memoirs, et seq. 1733.

From an engraving by Samuel Buck in 1733.  
 REMAINS OF NUNNEY CASTLE, NEAR LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP.





*From a photograph by F. W. M. King.*

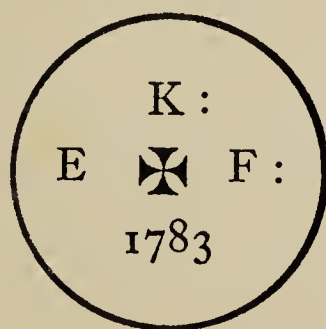
THE PARISH CHURCH OF LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP.



## CHAPTER V

### LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP

THE little village of Leigh-upon-Mendip, where Thomas King had taken refuge in the summer of 1643, and where our family was destined to remain for no less than two centuries, is situated at the east end of the Mendip Hills, six miles from Frome. It now consists of a single street of neat stone built cottages, many of them of considerable antiquity, but the village was formerly much more extensive, and many houses and cottages disappeared during the nineteenth century. At the west end is a house bearing the date 1583; whilst at the east end is the Elizabethan vicarage, and a farm-house said to have been a hunting-lodge of King Henry VIII. In the middle of the south side of the street is a cottage with the following inscription over the front door:—



This was doubtless the home of Edward King and of Frances (born Dyer) his wife, and here Edward King must have died in 1791. Possibly it was one of the four cottages referred to in the will of Clark King, which was proved in this same year, 1783.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This cottage was sold, with other portions of the Mells Estate, in 1923, on the instructions of Sir John Horner, K.C.V.O.

The chief feature of the village is its glorious church tower, a triple-windowed building of double tiers, one of the finest of its kind, and a landmark for all the surrounding district. The Church, which is late Perpendicular and dedicated to St. Giles,<sup>1</sup> is somewhat dwarfed by its tower, but is none the less a beautiful building. It has a fine chancel roof, some interesting old benches, and its Norman font, and Norman stoup in the south porch, show clearly the antiquity of its foundation. To our family it must always remain one of the most sacred of all churches, for in it no fewer than sixty-six of our race have been baptized, twelve have been married, and in its vaults or graveyard forty-five lie buried. On the floor of the Church, beneath the tower, there still remains a slab bearing an inscription relating to our family. It records the death of Daniel King in 1720; his nephew William King, who died in 1742, with Elizabeth his wife, their son Clark King, who died in 1781, and their grand-daughter Betsy, the first wife of William Clothier. This slab originally lay in the chancel in front of the altar, but was removed by the vicar to its present position under the tower in 1884, without consulting the family. The inscription having almost disappeared was recut in 1916. Close by is a second slab to the memory of Hester King, who died in 1726, but there is no reason to suppose that she was in any way connected with our family. Alongside there are also two other stones—one commemorating Philip Stevens, and his wife Martha, a daughter of William and Elizabeth King; the other recording the death of John Raines in 1749, a trustee and brother-in-law of William King senior, who married his sister Joan Raines.

Another interesting memorial of our family is to be

<sup>1</sup> St. Giles was a wealthy Athenian, originally named Aegidius. He distributed all his property amongst the poor, and for two years resided in the monastery at Arles under St. Cæsarius, who was Bishop from 502–541. St. Giles afterwards established a hermitage at the town in Provence, which now bears his name, and died there after gaining a great reputation for sanctity. His festival is on September 1st, and he is the patron saint of the poor and the suffering.

found in the church bells. The peal of six bells was apparently presented in 1757, and was cast in the well-known foundry of Thomas Bilbie at Chew Stoke. The first and sixth bells were presented by Clark King and William Finacar, the two churchwardens. These bells bear upon them the following inscription:—

*1st Bell—*

Mr. Clark King and Mr Wm :  
Finacar, Churchwardens, 1757, T.B.  
(Thomas Bilbie, fecit)

*6th Bell—*

Mr. Clark King and Mr William  
Finacar, Ch.Wardens. T. Bilbie  
fecit 1757.  
'I to the Church the living call,  
And to the Grave do summon all.'

In the churchyard there is only one memorial inscription of our family, that recording the death of Edward King and Frances his wife, and their three sons James, Mark, and William, of whom the last died in 1851. It is remarkable for the curious verses inscribed upon it.<sup>1</sup> This stone was broken and crumbling to pieces, and would shortly have disappeared, had it not been replaced in 1922 by an exact replica.

The history of Leigh-upon-Mendip can be traced back to a very early date. As its name denotes, it was originally a clearing in a wood, where a hamlet grew up, and formed a part of the Parish of Mells, with which it was always closely linked. The Parish of Mells, the village of honey, was given by King Edmund the Magnificent to Earl Athelstan in 942, and the Earl afterwards presented it to the Abbey of Glastonbury. Leigh remained a Liberty<sup>2</sup> of Glastonbury until the Dissolution of the greater monasteries in 1539, when it passed with Mells into the hands

<sup>1</sup> For this inscription, see Appendix B, p. 185.

<sup>2</sup> A Liberty was a district exempt from the jurisdiction of the High Sheriff, and with a separate commission of the peace.



of the Horners of Cloford. The nursery rhyme relating to 'Little Jack Horner' is supposed to refer to the acquisition of part of the Mells estate by this family. Like the other towns and villages of East Somerset, Leigh depended mainly for its prosperity upon the cloth and woollen trades, and the industries connected with them. Until they died out it was able to support a population treble that of the present day, which is under 400, and was a wealthy village of some importance. From an examination of wills, it appears that the richest people of the district in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were the Broad Weavers, Card Makers,<sup>1</sup> Stocking Makers, and Peruke Makers.

#### 1ST GENERATION

#### THOMAS KING = SABRINA (MOON ?)

We know little concerning Thomas King, our first ancestor at Leigh, except that he married his wife Sabrina some time before 1647, when their son William King was born, and that they had three sons and three daughters. In 1660 Thomas King signed the will of Andrew Moon, a coal-miner of Leigh, as one of the witnesses, and it seems probable that his wife Sabrina was a daughter of Andrew Moon, since the witnesses to wills at that period are so often close connections. He appears to have died at Leigh in 1705, and his wife Sabrina is no doubt the Widow King, whose death is recorded in 1709; both must have been about eighty years of age. Of the occupation of Thomas King and how he gained his livelihood, we have no exact knowledge. But since his sons and grandsons are found carrying on a highly successful business as stocking makers, we are perhaps not far wrong in supposing that he may have been the founder of the business. And since this had been one of the staple industries of the district for

<sup>1</sup> The card was a special instrument used in the carding of wool.



generations, it is extremely probable that our family had been connected with it long before their settlement at Leigh. It is most unfortunate that the Manor Court Rolls of Leigh should have been lost, as they would undoubtedly have thrown considerable light upon this early period. One relic of Thomas King is still in the possession of the family, the old bellows which on the death of Abraham Edward King in 1923, passed into the possession of Colonel King. In a letter of 1843 to his son Abraham Dyer King, William King states that he is sending him the bellows, and that they had then been in the family for 150 years. They now have a brass plate affixed to them giving their history.

The children of Thomas King and Sabrina his wife, were :—

1. William King, from whom we are descended.
2. Thomas King, born at Leigh 1650, and died there 1737. By his wife Ann (died at Leigh 1736) he had issue : Thomas, born and died at Leigh 1681, and Mary, baptized at Leigh 1682—she appears to have married John Christey of Nunney, at Frome in 1702.
3. Martha, born at Leigh 1654 ; married a certain Season, mentioned in her brother Daniel King's will.
4. Honor, born at Leigh 1657, married at Frome in 1700, Francis Witcomb of Mells. She was buried at Mells in 1737.
5. Mary, born at Leigh 1659 ; married William Taber of Leigh, by whom she had a son William, baptized at Leigh January 6th, 1682, mentioned in his uncle Daniel King's will ; and a daughter Sabrina, who married Philip Willcocks of Leigh, at Frome May 17th 1715.
6. Daniel King, baptized at Leigh 1663, and died there 1720 ; memorial inscription in the Church. By his wife Prudence (buried at Leigh 1740) he had issue : Prudence, buried at Leigh 1718. From his will it is evident that Daniel King was a man of substance.

## 2ND GENERATION

## WILLIAM KING = JOAN RAINES

William King, the eldest son of Thomas King, was born at Leigh in 1647, and some time before 1675 married Joan, the daughter of William Raines, by whom he had six sons and two daughters. His wife belonged to a very well-to-do family, probably of higher social standing than that of her husband. In 1683 he witnessed the will of his wife's uncle, Philip Raines of Leigh, described as a Gentleman, and in 1694 he was appointed one of the four trustees under the will of John Cornish of Leigh, Yeoman. In this will he is described as a stocking maker, the first definite indication that we possess concerning the occupation of the family. The Cornishes were a wealthy and prosperous family, with which our own was afterwards connected by marriage. On July 14th 1701, when he signed his will, William King describes himself as being 'sick and infirm of body', and he died seven weeks later at fifty-four years of age, predeceasing both his father and mother. From his will he appears to have been a very devout man of deep religious feeling. Under his will he appointed his wife to be sole executrix, and as his trustees his brother Daniel King, and his brother-in-law John Raines of Leigh. His widow Joan King subsequently married at Downhead in 1705, William Sayer of Leigh, Yeoman, who had joined with her first husband in witnessing the will of her uncle Philip Raines in 1683. She died at Leigh in either 1714 or 1717.

The children of William King and Joan his wife were :—

1. Philip King, baptized and buried at Leigh 1675.
2. William King, from whom we are descended.
3. Joan, born at Leigh 1679, married in Wells Cathedral in 1704, Arthur Holbrook of Leigh.
4. Thomas King, born at Leigh 1682, died young.

5. Edward King, baptized at Leigh 1684, married at Whatley in 1707, Jane, daughter of Henry Lacey of Frome, and Anne his wife. She was baptized at Frome June 20th 1682, and was buried at Leigh in 1747. Edward King was buried at Leigh in 1762. The Sabra King who married Jeremiah Lacey at Frome in 1733 is probably their daughter. Sabra is a shortened form of Sabrina. Edward King seems to have been a successful business man, and as no will could be found, a grant of the administration of his estate was made to his nephew Clark King, and to a certain Charles Hyde of Wells, peruke maker.
6. Margaret, baptized at Leigh 1686.
7. Philip King, baptized at Leigh 1689; by his wife Elizabeth (buried at Leigh 1718) he had issue: Daniel King, baptized at Leigh 1713. Philip King is mentioned in his uncle Daniel King's will as still living in 1720.
8. Thomas King, born at Leigh 1693; served as an officer in the Army; by his wife Fruzan Constable (buried at Leigh 1748) he had issue: Jonathan King (buried at Leigh 1741). Thomas King was buried at Leigh 1752, and his portrait is still in the possession of the family, as are those of his wife, his son, and his mother-in-law.

## APPENDIX

LETTER OF WILLIAM KING TO HIS SON, ABRAHAM DYER KING  
REFERRING TO THE OLD BELLOWS

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP.

*October 30th, 1843.*

DEAR SON,

I have written to inform you I am going to send a little pig, I shall send it to Bath Wednesday next by the carrier, it will be killed to-morrow morning. I have spoken to the keeper about a hare, he has promised me one for some time past,

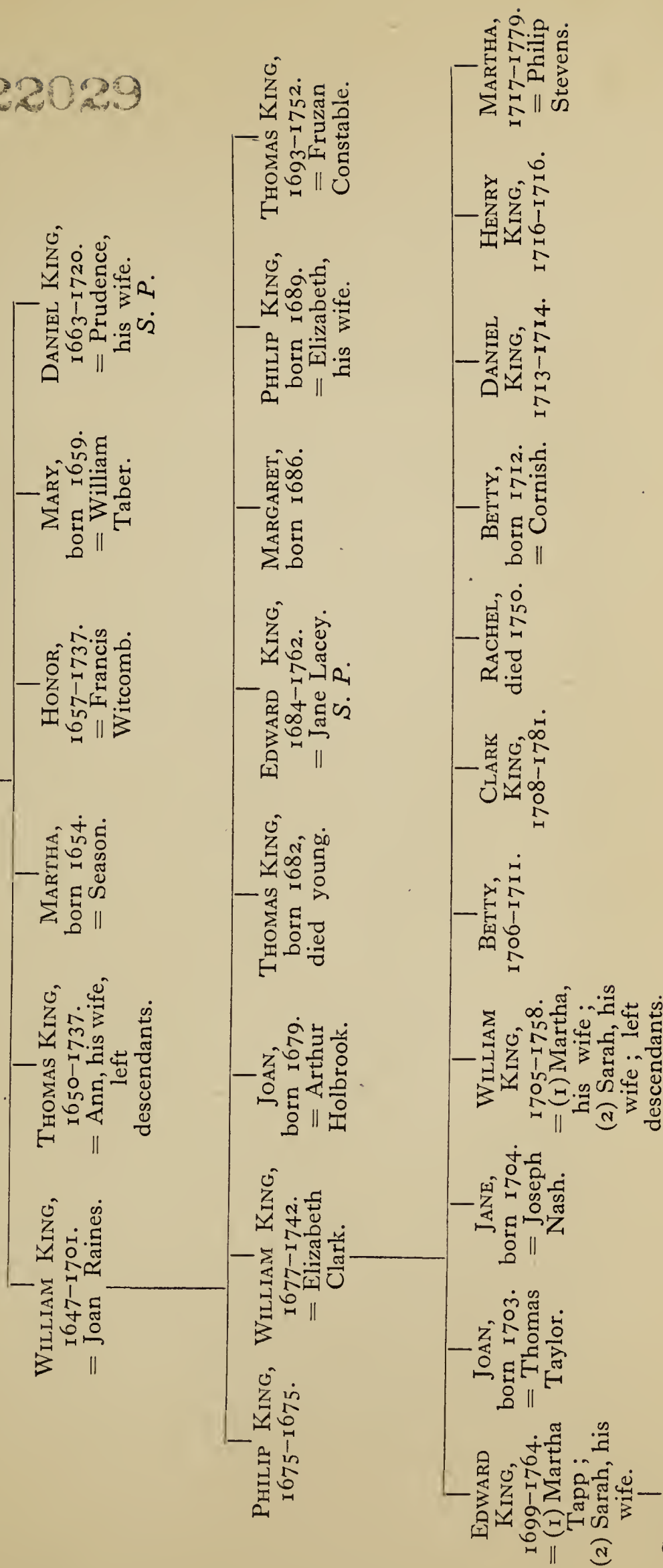


should there be one, it is for you. The pig you will part as you think proper with Isaac and David, but I was thinking one half for you, and the other half for Isaac and David, as you have been to the most expense coming down, but I shall leave that to you. This is the pig I won at Leigh Revel, I informed you when you were in the country I had won a pig. There were two days play for the same, I beat all the great don players at no small surprise. I gave the pig to Elizabeth, and have bought it off her again, and have sent it as a present to you and your brothers, hoping you will enjoy yourselves with the same, the pig has been well fed. I have rather expected to have heard from you since your departure from Leigh, whether you arrived safely and also your luggage, I hope it was alright. Bets is confined with a daughter, she is very well, I hope she will be able to be about soon, for she is wanted in her business very much. Aunt Clothier has received a letter from Mary Ann Lewis, wishing for Aunt to take her, but it is not convenient for Aunt, Aunt wishes you to inform her of the same. Please to inform her to give up all hopes of coming to Leigh, Aunt wishes you to inform her as quickly as possible, in case she should start off for Leigh, pray attend to this as quickly as possible. Should there be anything sent in the package it is for you. Aunt has got an old family Bellows, she has talked of sending, if so it is for you, I suppose it is a century and a half old. Write as soon as you receive the parcel. Aunt Clothier, Mrs. Season and Daughters send their kind love to you, and accept the same from

Your loving Father  
WM. KING.

*To Mr Abm. King,  
16, Great Winchester Street,  
Old Broad Street,  
London.*

THOMAS KING = SABRINA MOON,  
died 1705. | died 1709.



See Ped. II.

## CHAPTER VI

### SEDGEMOOR AND THE BLOODY ASSIZE

OUR family had scarcely been settled for a generation at Leigh-upon-Mendip when it found itself once more enveloped in all the horrors of civil war, in its worst and most ghastly aspect. The intense religious fervour of the West Country, and its sturdy spirit of independence, had been moved to their depths by the bitter political struggle of Charles II's reign to prevent a Catholic prince from succeeding to the English throne. The Duke of Monmouth, the king's natural son, who openly aspired to the crown, was the leader of the movement. In 1680 the Good Duke, or the Protestant Duke, as he was affectionately called, made a state progress through the West, in which he was received with the wildest enthusiasm and almost regal honours, and when he rode from Chard to Exeter 5000 horsemen followed in his train. With the accession of King James II in 1685, the Duke of Monmouth, then in exile, determined to strike a blow for the crown, and remembering his former popularity in the West and the enthusiastic welcome he had received there, decided to make it his base of operations.

From the time that James II was proclaimed king the western counties had been tense with suppressed excitement, and the anticipation of great events to come. Everything pointed to an early outbreak, and when at last it was announced that the Good Duke had landed at Lyme Regis on June 11th, had hoisted his blue standard, and proclaimed himself Captain-General of the English Protestants, all the latent fanaticism of the Puritan West burst into flames. From all sides the people rallied to the



Protestant cause, and from every village in Mendip the miners weavers and labourers swarmed south to join the army of the Good Duke at Taunton. But whilst the poorer classes in their religious enthusiasm were ready to risk everything for the Protestant cause, just as they had done for the Catholic faith in the 'Rising in the West' 140 years earlier, the upper and middle classes held aloof with but few exceptions. Their sympathies and their prayers, it is true, were with the Protestant Duke, but they had too much at stake and too much to lose, to risk it all in a desperate gamble, such as the present rising appeared to be. He could scarcely expect to have their more active assistance in such a forlorn hope. Like the middle classes as a whole, our family abstained from taking any part in the rising, and Thomas King and his three sons, William Thomas and Daniel, resolved to remain quiet in their homes at Leigh-upon-Mendip. But it was for them a time of the deepest anxiety and danger, for they and all their neighbours were of the old Puritan stock, and the government well knew the district to be thoroughly disaffected. In its determination to strike terror into the people at all costs, it was not likely to inquire too closely as to whether men were actually guilty of any overt act of treason.

The Protestant Duke made his triumphal entry into Taunton on June 18th, and two days later was there proclaimed King. On the 21st he began his northward march on Bristol, at the head of 7000 men, a mobile column of royal troops under Lord Churchill who had reached Chard from London on the 19th, following close on his heels. Moving through Bridgwater Glastonbury and Wells, the Duke reached Shepton Mallet on the 2nd, and crossing Mendip to the west of Leigh, on the 25th was at Keynsham Bridge. Everywhere he was received with wild enthusiasm, and at Frome he was proclaimed king, the proclamation being torn down the following day by a party of the Wiltshire militia under Lord Pembroke in spite of the hostile demonstrations of the townspeople. At Keynsham

the Duke learnt that Lord Feversham, the commander-in-chief, had entered Bristol with the Royal Cavalry that morning, and that his infantry were following close behind. He accordingly abandoned his idea of attacking Bristol, and decided to advance into Wiltshire, where he expected to obtain strong reinforcements for his march on London. Early on the 26th he summoned Bath to surrender, and on its refusal continued his march to Norton St. Philip, where he billeted his troops for the night. Here the Duke lodged at the 'George Inn', and as he gazed from the window, was shot at by a countryman anxious to gain the reward of £5000 placed upon his head. The incident is commemorated in the local ballad in the words :—

‘ The Duke he gently turned him round  
And said, “ My man, you’ve missed your mark,  
And lost your thousand pound.” ’

On this same day Lord Feversham was joined at Bath by Lord Churchill’s column, and the concentration of the Royal forces was now complete.

On the morning of the 27th Monmouth was preparing to leave Norton St. Philip, when he was attacked by Feversham’s advanced guard, commanded by his own half-brother, the Duke of Grafton. Some sharp fighting followed, the attack was beaten off, and Feversham fell back upon Bradford-on-Avon. Monmouth marched that night to Frome, which he reached the following morning. Here bad news awaited him, for the military stores which he had expected to find had been captured by Lord Pembroke’s militia, and news was received of the failure of the revolt in Scotland, and the capture of its leader the Earl of Argyle. It was accordingly decided to abandon the march into Wiltshire, and to fall back upon Bridgwater, where it was reported that large bodies of recruits were assembling from the districts round Axbridge. Leaving Frome on the 29th, Monmouth retreated through Shepton Mallet and Wells, where lamentable damage was done to the Cathedral by a band of fanatics, before they could be



checked by their officers. On July 2nd he bivouacked on Pedwell Plain, reaching Bridgwater the following day. Meanwhile Feversham, under the impression that the Duke was advancing on Warminster, marched from Bradford to Westbury on the 29th, and was there joined by his artillery from Devizes. Then, learning of the retirement, he marched to Frome on the 30th, and moving through Shepton Mallet Wells and Glastonbury, reached Somerton on July 4th, advancing to Sedgemoor the following day, preparatory to attacking Bridgwater.

Early on the morning of the 6th, before daybreak, the Duke of Monmouth surprised the royal forces in their camp, and only the presence of an unforeseen obstacle, the Bussex Rhine, robbed him of victory. The peasantry of Somerset, with their ammunition exhausted, deserted by their cavalry, and their guns out of action, fought with a gallantry beyond all praise. And as a feat of arms the disaster of Sedgemoor is no less honourable than Alfred's victory over the Danes at Ethandune, or Blake's defence of Taunton. Riddled with musketry to which they could make no reply, and with great lanes mown through their ranks by cannon shot, they were at length broken up by the cavalry, and out of the 3600 men whom Monmouth took into action 2400 were killed in the battle, or in the merciless pursuit that followed. In spite of all that his enemies afterwards alleged, the conduct of the Good Duke had been admirable, and he had borne himself in all respects as a gallant soldier should. A contemporary account states, 'All agree that he acted the part of a great general, and charged on foot at the head of his army'. It was only when all was lost that he fled from the fatal field, to be captured at Ringwood two days later. He was taken to London; there for a moment his courage failed him, and he stooped to plead for his life, but on the 15th he was beheaded on Tower Hill, bearing himself to the last with great gallantry. To the weeping onlookers, he had died a martyr for the Protestant faith, and many were the handkerchiefs dipped in his blood. Poor Lady Wentworth,



who had loved him so dearly, died of a broken heart, and followed him to the grave nine months later. In the West Country large numbers for a long time refused to believe that their Good Duke was really dead, and confidently expected that he would again appear in arms. His hold upon the affections of the people of Somerset lasted until the generation that had known him passed away, and by them the discreditable stories so busily circulated by his enemies were never believed. The feelings that he aroused can best be realized from the local ballads :—

‘ Though this is a dismal story,  
Of the fall of my design,  
Yet I’ll come again in glory,  
If I live till eighty-nine :  
For I’ll have a stronger army,  
And of ammunition store.’

Whilst another ballad runs :—

‘ Then shall Monmouth in his glories  
Unto his English friends appear,  
And will stifle all such stories  
As are vended everywhere.

‘ They’ll see I was not so degraded,  
To be taken gathering peas,  
Or in a cock of hay upbraided<sup>1</sup>  
What strange stories now are these ? ’

The tragedy of Sedgemoor was followed by a series of military executions so savage and so brutal as to be without precedent in the history of our country.

It was now that the infamous Colonel Kirke, who had been left in command, and his troops known for all time by the ironical name of Kirke’s Lambs,<sup>2</sup> gained that evil

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the fact that when taken prisoner he was hiding in a cornfield.

<sup>2</sup> Kirke’s Regiment of Foot was then known as The Queen Dowager’s Regiment, afterwards the 2nd Foot, and now The Queen’s Royal Regiment (West Surrey); the badge of the regiment is the Paschal Lamb.

reputation which has never been forgotten to the present day. All the abominations and cruelties that he had habitually practised when Governor of Tangiers in warfare against the infidel, were now vented upon the wretched people of Somerset. He established his headquarters at the 'White Hart Inn' at Taunton, and there his prisoners were strung up to the sign post, as he and his officers caroused within. As each toast was drunk, a fresh victim was turned off, and observing the quivering of their limbs in the last agony, he cried out that they were dancing, and called for music to accompany their movements. It was not only his instincts for cruelty that this man was now able to gratify, but also his love of gold, and safe conducts were sold for £30 or £40 each to those who went in fear of their lives. Such were the deeds that took place in the chief town of Somerset; what happened in small villages and on lonely farms is better left to the imagination, but all the abominations of Kirke pale into insignificance before the calculated policy of cold-blooded brutality that was to follow.

Early in September Judge Jeffreys, Lord Chief Justice of England, set out on that circuit, known to history as the Bloody Assize, of which the memory will last as long as our race and language endure. He first visited Winchester. One victim only was found there, but the trial showed clearly what the nature of the Assize was likely to be. The victim was the revered Lady Alice Lisle, who was sentenced to be burnt alive for having given a night's shelter to two wretched fugitives from Sedgemoor. The Judge next proceeded to Dorchester, where 300 prisoners awaited him; 292 were sentenced to death, of whom 74 were actually hanged drawn and quartered. At Exeter there were comparatively few prisoners awaiting trial. Somerset, as the centre of the rising, was reserved for the last and most fearful vengeance. At Taunton 526 were awaiting trial; 154 were hanged drawn and quartered, and 282 were sold into slavery in the West Indies; at Wells there were 527 prisoners, of whom 101 were hanged drawn and

quartered, and 383 sold into slavery. Hundreds of others were arrested, and fined flogged or imprisoned. On his return to London Judge Jeffreys openly boasted that he had hanged more traitors than all his predecessors together since the Norman Conquest. Not only had he been merciless, but also corrupt to a degree almost inconceivable; a brisk trade had been done in pardons, and from Edmund Prideaux alone he had received as much as £15,000 as the price of his liberation. Appalling injustices had been committed, witnesses for the defence were systematically refused a hearing, and at Wells, Charles Speke of White Lackington was executed merely for having shaken hands with the Duke at Ilminster, although it was well known that he had refused to take any part in the rebellion. At Taunton, even the little school girls who had been taken by their mistress to welcome the Good Duke, and to present him with a banner and a Bible, were sentenced to outlawry and had to be ransomed by their parents. The poor peasants of Somerset met their fate with extraordinary fortitude, convinced that they were dying as martyrs for the Protestant faith; and as they went to the scaffold, they sang hymns and psalms of praise, thanking God for His mercy in granting them the glory of martyrdom.

Our own family was fortunate enough to escape this awful visitation, but the Bryants, with whom we were afterwards so closely connected, were less happy, and Israel Bryant was hanged drawn and quartered at Glastonbury, Gerard Bryant met a similar fate at Bath, and Bernard and Robert Bryant were sold into slavery in the West Indies.

The state of Somerset in that autumn of 1685 is almost too horrible for description, and yet if we are to understand what our family and their friends and neighbours passed through during those awful days, it must be related. Already Taunton and the surrounding villages had been decorated by Kirke and his lambs with the heads and quarters of their victims, boiled and tarred. But now a fresh, a greater, and a more widespread distribution was to take place, and the villages of Mendip received their share.



It is only from the words of contemporaries that we can realize the ghastly condition of affairs ; one tells us that the churches and houses were ' covered as close with heads as at other times with crows or ravens ; the trees were laden almost as thick with quarters as with leaves '. Lord Lonsdale in a letter writes, ' that the stench was so great that the ways were not to be travelled whilst the horror of so many quarters of men and the offensive stench of them lasted '. Lord Macaulay in his *History of England* says, ' At every spot where two roads met, on every market place, on the green of every large village which had furnished Monmouth with soldiers, ironed corpses clattering in the wind, or heads and quarters stuck on poles, poisoned the air, and made the traveller sick with horror. In many parishes the peasantry could not assemble in the house of God without seeing the ghastly face of a neighbour grinning at them over the porch '. The state of misery and despair that prevailed is best depicted by the contemporary Oldmixon, who writes, ' the country is now an Aeldama. Every soul is sunk in anguish and terror, sighing by day and night for deliverance, but shut out of all hope by despair '.

But deliverance was nearer at hand than men imagined. The gallant peasantry of Somerset had not died in vain, for they had revealed to the country clearly the callous brutality of the blood-stained tyrant who disgraced the throne of England. For three years the nation endured an ever-increasing tyranny until it had become obvious to all that the royal policy was simply aiming at absolute power such as Louis XIV wielded in France, together with the re-introduction of the Catholic faith. By the autumn of 1688 revolution had become inevitable, and the leading men of the nation invited the Prince of Orange, the king's nephew and son-in-law, to come over to England to save their liberties and the Protestant religion. The Prince landed at Torbay on November 5th, at the head of 14,000 Dutch troops, and on the 9th made his state entry into Exeter, the capital of the West. The royal troops

concentrated at Salisbury, but amongst their senior officers treachery and desertion were at work from the first, and when King James arrived on the 19th and assumed command, the army was no longer a reliable instrument. The advanced troops came into contact with the Dutchmen at Wincanton in Somerset on the 20th, and drove them back, but a fresh series of desertions completely demoralized the king, who on the 24th ordered his troops to fall back upon the line of the Thames, and himself returned to London. The Prince of Orange, who had reached Axminster on the 21st, continued his march through Crewkerne to Sherborne, and then through Wincanton to Salisbury, which he entered in state on December 4th. At first men were still too crushed by the memory of the Bloody Assize to render active assistance to the invaders, but the king's retreat proved to all that the reign of terror was really at an end, and as the Prince of Orange passed through the borders of Somerset, its leading men hastened to place their services at his disposal. The subsequent flight of King James to France and the coronation of the Prince of Orange as King of England belong to national and not to local history. The Revolution had at last brought peace to a distracted land, and from that day to this Somerset has remained untouched by the horrors of civil war.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

ALL through the eighteenth century our family carried on its business at Leigh as stocking makers, in which no fewer than six generations were engaged, and during the first half of that century the business appears to have prospered, to judge from the wills and other evidence that remain to us. The manufacture of stockings was amongst the more important industries of East Somerset for some hundreds of years, and had grown up side by side with the development of the cloth trade. Originally stockings were made of cloth, and it was not until the reign of King Henry VII that knit hose were introduced from Spain, and woven stockings only became general under Queen Elizabeth. The stocking frame was invented by William Lee of Cambridge in 1589, and with the addition invented by Jedediah Strutt of Belper in 1758, remained in use so long as the village industries survived. The manufacture of stockings was especially important at Wells Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet, and at Wells one of the seven city companies was that of the 'Stocking Makers and Woolcombers', as we have already related. According to Daniel Defoe, the famous author, who was at one time a hosiery factor, the stockings made at these three towns supplied the Spanish trade.

During the latter half of the eighteenth century the family business was steadily declining, the industrial revolution had begun, great factories were beginning to spring up, destroying the ancient village industries, and ruining the small manufacturers. With the death of



Clark King in 1781, and his brother-in-law Philip Stevens in 1789, the prosperity of our family was almost at an end. The old family business was still carried on by Philip King until his death in 1808, but he was the last of the family to gain his livelihood in this way, and at his death the business passed into the hands of his brother-in-law, William Clothier, who had been an apprentice of Clark King, and died at a great age in 1831.

### 3RD GENERATION

#### WILLIAM KING = ELIZABETH (CLARK ?)

William King, the eldest surviving son of William King the elder and Joan (born Raines) his wife, was baptized at Leigh in 1677. Not later than 1699, he married his wife Elizabeth, by whom he had five sons and six daughters. There is some doubt as to his wife's family, but we do know from the memorial inscription in Leigh Church that she was born in 1681, and it is probable that she was the daughter of a certain Richard Clark of Leigh, who married one Sarah Smithfield in 1681, and to whom William Sayer left his house called 'Mopsons' in 1722. At any rate there was some close connection between our family and this Richard Clark, because not only did William King have his third son baptized in the name of Clark, but the house 'Mopsons' is undoubtedly the same as the house 'Moxhams', which is later found in the possession of Clark King.

William King, as we learn from his will, carried on the family business of a stocking maker like his father before him. In the winter of 1739 he appears to have had some severe illness, and on January 4th 1740, he signed his will, in which he speaks of himself as 'being very sick and weak in body'. From this document it is evident that like his father he was a deeply religious man. One of the witnesses to the will was his cousin William Taber, the

son of his aunt Mary Taber, and the executors were his wife Elizabeth and his third son Clark King. He lived for three years longer, dying at Leigh on December 1st 1742, aged 66 years. His widow, who did not prove the will until July 1746, died at Leigh on June 6th 1747, aged 66 years, and was buried beside her husband in the Parish Church, where their memorial inscriptions can still be read.

The children of William King and Elizabeth his wife, were :—

1. Edward King, from whom we are descended.
2. Joan, baptized at Leigh 1703, married in Wells Cathedral in 1727, Thomas Taylor of Leigh, clothworker. Mentioned in her father's will 1740.
3. Jane, married in Wells Cathedral in 1732, Joseph Nash of Frome, millwright. Mentioned in her father's will 1740. Resided at Elm.
4. William King, baptized at Leigh 1705, and buried there in 1758. By his first wife Martha (buried at Leigh 1740), he had issue : Edward King, baptized and buried at Leigh 1740. By his second wife, Sarah, he had issue : Sarah, baptized at Leigh 1741, who married a certain Decoster, and William King, who married Lydia Hill at Frome in 1767 ; both are mentioned in their uncle Clark King's will as still living in 1780.
5. Betty, baptized at Leigh 1706, and buried there 1711.
6. Clark King, baptized at Leigh 1708, and buried there 1781. See separate note later.
7. Rachael, mentioned in her father's will 1740, buried at Leigh 1750.
8. Betty, baptized at Leigh 1712, married a certain Cornish, by whom she had a daughter Prudence : mentioned in the wills of her brother, Clark King 1780, and her brother-in-law, Philip Stevens 1786.

9. Daniel King, baptized at Leigh 1713, and buried there 1714.
10. Henry King, baptized and buried at Leigh 1716.
11. Martha, baptized at Leigh 1717, married at Leigh in 1745, Philip Stevens of Leigh, stocking maker. She died at Leigh in 1779, and her husband died there in 1789. They were both buried in the Parish Church, where their memorial inscriptions can still be read. Philip Stevens is described in his will, and on his tombstone, as a Gentleman, and was evidently a man of substance. In his will he mentions many of his wife's relations.

#### 4TH GENERATION

EDWARD KING = (1) MARTHA TAPP;  
(2) SARAH, his wife.

Edward King, the eldest son of William King, was born at Leigh on December 30th 1699, and succeeded his father in the family business of a stocking maker. He was twice married. First at Great Elm in 1722, to Martha Tapp of Leigh, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. They were married by license, and it is from the Marriage License Register that we learn that Edward King, like his forefathers, was by occupation a stocking maker. Martha Tapp, at the time of her marriage, was twenty-one years of age, but there is no record of her death, which took place some time between 1739 and 1749. Concerning Edward King's second wife, Sarah, nothing is known, except the fact that she bore him two sons. She presumably outlived her husband, and may be the Sarah King referred to in 1786 in the will of Philip Stevens, in which case she died at Leigh in 1797. But both those references might equally be to the widow of Edward King's younger brother, William King.



Edward King occupied at Leigh 'a dwelling house paddock and appurtenances' belonging to a certain John Gilbert of Leigh, Gentleman, as we learn from the will of the latter dated 1742. He died at Leigh in 1764, aged sixty-five years, and appears to have left no will, as none was ever proved.

The children of Edward King and Martha his first wife were :—

1. Philip King, from whom we are descended.
2. Thomas King, baptized at Leigh 1728, mentioned in his uncle Clark King's will as still living in 1780; he might possibly be the Thomas King who married Susannah Holiday at Frome in 1773.
3. Martha, baptized at Leigh 1730; married a certain Dean; mentioned in Clark King's will.
4. Ann, baptized at Leigh 1735, married at Frome in 1764, John West of Frome, Peruke Maker; she is mentioned in the wills of Clark King and Philip Stevens.
5. Betty, baptized at Leigh 1737, married at Leigh in 1767, William Clothier of Leigh, Stocking Maker. She died in 1787, and was buried in Leigh Church, where her memorial inscription can still be read.
6. Prudence, baptized at Leigh 1739; married at Frome in 1782, Joseph Millard of Frome, handlesetter; she is mentioned in the wills of Clark King and Philip Stevens.

The children of Edward King and Sarah his second wife, were :—

1. William King, baptized at Leigh in 1750, mentioned as still living in the wills of Clark King and Philip Stevens; he may be the William King who married Mary Castle at Shepton Mallet in 1772.
2. Edward King, baptized and buried at Leigh in 1753.

## CLARK KING

Clark King in his day was far the most prominent member of the family, and was always remembered by later generations with the utmost respect. The third son of William King, he was baptized at Leigh in 1708. From his will we know that he was a stocking maker, like all his family, and no doubt he was his father's most trusted son, since he selected him to be his executor rather than either of his two elder sons. For many years he was churchwarden at Leigh, and in 1757 he and his fellow-churchwarden, Thomas Finacar, presented two of the church bells, as we have seen. On the death of his uncle Thomas King the soldier in 1752, the family portraits passed into his possession, and when his uncle Edward King died intestate in 1762, it was Clark King who received the grant of the administration of his estate. He lived in a house at Leigh called 'Moxhams', as already related, and in his will he left it to his nephew Philip King, and after him to his eldest son Edward King, for 'the remaining term and estate therein'. There is no record of Clark King ever having been married, and when he died in 1781, aged seventy-three years, he was by far the richest member of the family. In his will he appears to have mentioned almost every surviving relative, but the bulk of his estate went to his favourite niece Betty, the third daughter of his brother Edward King, who in 1767 had married her uncle's apprentice William Clothier. The trustees under his will were John Bradley of Wells, Stephen Hill of Holcombe, and William Lacey of Frome.<sup>1</sup> Clark King was buried in the Parish Church at Leigh, where his memorial inscription can still be read.

<sup>1</sup> The families of Hill and Lacey appear to have been closely connected with our own family. Clark King's nephew, William King, married Lydia Hill at Frome in 1767, and Clark King's uncle, Edward King, had married Jane Lacey of Frome, at Whatley in 1707, and their daughter Sabra King, married Jeremiah Lacey at Frome in 1733.

## 5TH GENERATION

PHILIP KING = (1) CONSTANCE OBORNE;  
(2) ANN HISCOX.

Philip King, the eldest son of Edward King and Martha (born Tapp) his wife, was baptized at Leigh in 1725, and no doubt was called after his father's uncle. We know that he succeeded his father in the family business of a stocking maker, because there is in existence a bond for £13 owing jointly by him and his son Edward King, to his brother-in-law William Clothier, dated 1789, in which he is so described. He was twice married. First at Kilmersdon in 1748 to Constance, daughter of Edward Osborne of that parish, where she was baptized in 1726. She bore him five sons and two daughters, and dying at the age of fifty-six was buried at Leigh in 1783. Four years later he married Ann Hiscox of Leigh, but of this union there were no children.

Philip King lived in the house called 'Moxhams', which had been left to him for life by his uncle Clark King, together with the garden called Cook's Garden. We know also that he owned a shop at Leigh and a field called Conigar, because there is still in existence an agreement dated 1785, to let them both to William Clothier. Concerning Philip King there still remained a few traditions in the memories of the older members of the past generation, traditions that had come down to them from his grandson William King. He was chiefly remembered as the last to live at Leigh under really comfortable circumstances, and with his death the prosperity of the family was at an end. The times had changed entirely, the ancient industrial system had passed away, and it was no longer possible for the small local manufacturers to exist. With the death of Philip King, the old family business of stocking makers was at an end. His eldest son Edward King, who had been brought up to the business, had pre-deceased him, his second son Philip King



had other interests, and what was left of the business passed into the hands of his brother-in-law William Clothier.

Philip King died at Leigh in 1808, at the age of eighty-three years, and was followed to the grave by his widow only twelve days later. He had lived to a greater age than any of our ancestors, and curiously enough is the only member of our family of whom it was alleged that he drank too heavily. He left no will, and tradition relates that he continually postponed making it until too late, owing to the superstitious fear that if he did so, his death would quickly follow.

The children of Philip King and Constance his first wife were :—

1. Edward King, from whom we are descended.
2. Philip King, born at Leigh 1754 ; married at Leigh in 1777 Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel Flower of Coleford, and had issue : John, Jonathan, Constance, Philip, Jemimah and Honor. This branch of the family remained behind in Somerset, when the elder branch migrated to London. Philip King was buried at Leigh in 1833, and his widow was buried there in 1835.
3. Constance, baptized at Leigh 1757, and buried there 1762.
4. Patty, baptized at Leigh 1760 ; married at Leigh in 1784 George Padfield of Kilmersdon, Yeoman, and had two sons and three daughters.
5. Clark King, baptized at Leigh 1762, and buried there 1763.
6. Clark King, baptized at Leigh 1764 ; known to have been still living in 1780 from the will of his great-uncle Clark King.
7. Bishop King, baptized at Leigh 1767 ; mentioned in the will of Clark King ; no record exists of his ever having been married ; buried at Leigh in 1833.

## APPENDIX

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP.

*March the 28, 1785.*

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN

*Mr. William Clothier and Mr. Philip King*

I PHILIP KING have this day let to Mr WILLIAM CLOTHIER the Field called Conigar late in occupation of EDWARD KING at the Yearly Rent of Sixteen Shilling per year Exclusive of taxes to the said WILLIAM CLOTHIER During Mr KING's Life or as long as he live and Likewise the Shop now in Occupation of WILLIAM CLOTHIER on the above terms at the Yearly Rent of fifteen Shillings per Year and at the same time Mr PHILIP KING received of MR WILLIAM CLOTHIER one shilling in part of pay in presence of

Us { JONATHAN BUDGETT  
ABRAHAM BATT  
the mark of × GEORGE RAWLS

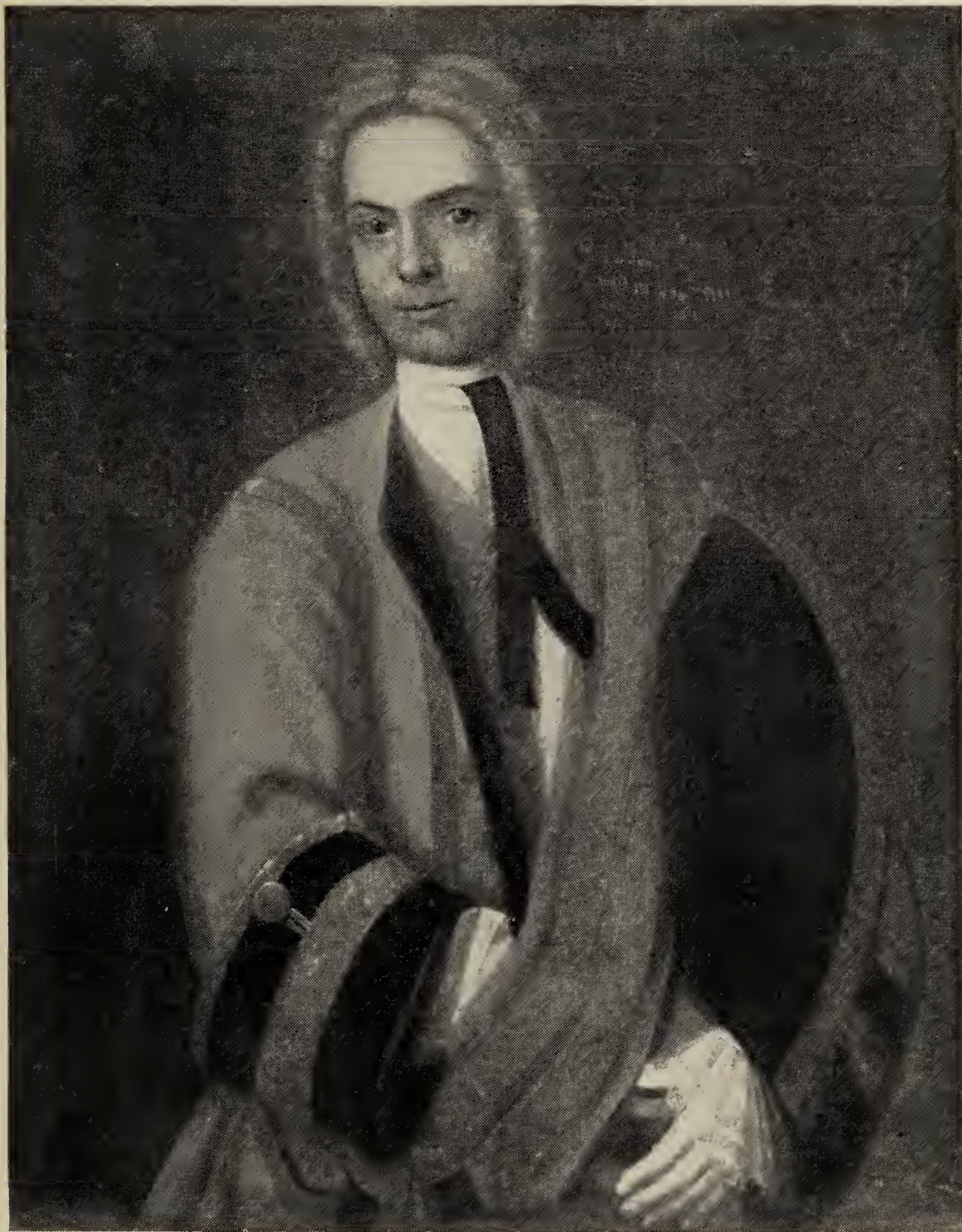
## CHAPTER VIII

### THE OLD FAMILY PORTRAITS

THE four old portraits, which passed into the possession of Colonel King in 1920, on the death of Francis William Mark King of South Norwood, are of the greatest interest, since they are not only among the oldest relics of the past that our family possesses, but also throw a clear and certain light upon its social position at the beginning of the eighteenth century, by the mere fact that they were painted at all. These portraits represent Thomas King, the youngest son of William and Joan King, who was born at Leigh in 1693 and died there in 1752; his wife Fruzan, who died at Leigh in 1748; and their son Jonathan, who died there in 1741. The fourth picture represents Thomas King's mother-in-law, Mrs. Constable. All these pictures were undoubtedly painted by the same artist, but neither his name nor the exact date when they were painted, is now known.

This Thomas King, according to family tradition, was an officer in the Army; a tradition which is confirmed by a letter of William King to his son Abraham in 1841, and by the fact that his portrait is painted in uniform—scarlet with blue facings, and over it the colour belt. The uniform is that of an Ensign of Lovelace's Foot, since the uniform of Handasyde's Foot, to which regiment Thomas King was transferred in 1717, had buff and not blue facings. The pictures therefore, must have been painted in or before 1717, and probably in that very year, since the portrait of Jonathan King represents a child of between two and three years of age, and we can scarcely assume that his father was married before he was twenty-one. The portrait





*From a painting in the possession of Colonel King.*

ENSIGN THOMAS KING.

LORD LOVELACE'S REGIMENT OF FOOT.

Born 1693. Died 1752.

*Facing p 54.*





FRUZAN KING, *née* CONSTABLE.

WIFE OF ENSIGN THOMAS KING.

Died in 1748.



*From paintings in the possession of Colonel King.*

JONATHAN KING.

SON OF ENSIGN THOMAS KING.

Died 1741.



of Thomas King now begins to have a definite historic interest, because pictures of junior regimental officers of this period are extremely rare, and there is considerable doubt as to the details of their uniform. It is interesting to speculate how he came to obtain a commission in the Army—the only member of our family to do so until the last two generations. In the absence of any evidence on the subject, it is not unnatural to suppose that it may have been due to the influence of his mother's family. Before her marriage his mother was a Miss Joan Raines, and belonged to a family which appears to have been in a slightly better social position than that into which she married.

In his letter of 1841 William King states that he does not know the rank of Thomas King, and since he makes no mention of his regiment, presumably that also had been forgotten. In fact, so completely had all details regarding his career passed out of memory, that legends were at one time in process of formation, due to the vivid and fertile imagination of the gentler sex, as are most family legends. These stories conferred upon him the rank of Colonel, and a career of the most varied and fantastic nature, and curiously enough always associated him with the period of the Regency, quite regardless of the fact that he lived three generations earlier, and died some twelve years before the Prince Regent was born. An instructive example of how family legends can develop, under the fostering care of romantic minded ladies, based on the general principle that if a story is told sufficiently often it must be true.

Fortunately there is no difficulty in reconstructing Thomas King's military career from the Army Lists. Apparently he was appointed an Ensign in Lord Lovelace's Regiment of Foot on July 14th 1708. He would then be between fifteen and sixteen years of age; no unusual age for an Ensign at that period. During the Wars of the Spanish Succession, Lovelace's Foot, which had been raised in 1706, took part in the campaigns in the Spanish Peninsula,



and no doubt Thomas King saw active service with his regiment in that country. Lovelace's Foot was serving under General Stanhope in 1710, when he surrendered at Brihuega to Marshal Vendôme and the King of Spain, and was disbanded in 1712 on the reduction of the army at the general peace, the officers being placed upon half-pay. During this period of enforced idleness, Ensign Thomas King married his wife Fruzan Constable, and their eldest son Jonathan was born.

In 1715 all half-pay officers were ordered to hold themselves in readiness for active service owing to the Jacobite rising, and when the Army was augmented in 1717, Ensign Thomas King was posted to Handasyde's Regiment of Foot with the rank of Lieutenant. In this regiment, later the 22nd Foot, and now known as the Cheshire Regiment, he served for the next nine years, until he was transferred to Harrison's Regiment of Foot on December 25th 1726. This regiment, later the 15th Foot and now the East Yorkshire Regiment, had been serving in Scotland since 1719, and was still serving there when Lieutenant Thomas King reported for duty. The regiment remained in Scotland until 1728, detachments being employed by General Wade in making roads in the Highlands, and in that year came south, and was reviewed by King George II at Blackheath on June 29th. Thomas King's commission as Lieutenant had been renewed in 1727, on the accession of King George II, and he was still serving in 1730, but by 1740, when the regiment was sent to the West Indies with the ill-fated expedition to Carthagená, he had retired. Unfortunately Army Lists are not available for the period between 1730 and 1740, and so the exact date of his retirement cannot be ascertained, but he never seems to have had sufficient means to enable him to purchase his promotion to the rank of Captain.

The first indication of Lieutenant Thomas King's return to Leigh after his retirement is in 1740. At any rate, in that year his son Jonathan King, now married, was residing there, for on Christmas Day his infant son was baptized

there, and on January 25th 1741 Jonathan King was buried at Leigh, and his infant son a few days later. Jonathan King's wife Anne may have belonged to the well-known family of Jolliffe, since a marriage with the Jolliffes was handed down with pride by family tradition, and it is difficult to see where else it can have occurred.

It is always possible that the Betty King buried at Leigh in 1735, and the George King buried there in 1740, neither of whom can be identified, are the children of Thomas King. If such should prove to be the case, it would be an indication that he had probably retired from the Army by 1735. In the 'List of the Inhabitants of Leigh' for 1746 and 1747, discovered amongst the papers of Francis William Mark King in 1920, we find the name of Mr. Thomas King recorded. The only other references to his residence at Leigh are the death of his wife Fruzan King in 1748, and his own death in 1752. No doubt he was buried in the chancel of Leigh Church, like the other members of our family, but apparently there was never any inscription to his memory; at any rate William King, searching in 1841, was unable to find one. A search was also made to see if Thomas King had left a will, but none could be found.

The history of the four pictures since the death of their original owner in 1752, is made clear by William King's letter of 1841. At that time they were in the possession of William Clothier's widow, a younger sister of the Frances Dyer who married Edward King, and she presented them to her nephew Abraham Dyer King of Chelsea. They can only have come into William Clothier's possession through Clark King, who left 'all my household furniture etc.', to his favourite niece Betty, the first wife of William Clothier, formerly his apprentice. No doubt Clark King, being the most prominent member of the family, received them on the death of his uncle Thomas King in 1752, unless they first went to the latter's elder brother Edward King, who died in 1762, and whose estate was administered by Clark King. The pictures

then remained with Clark King until his death in 1781, when they passed to his niece Betty, the wife of William Clothier. She died in 1787, and they remained in William Clothier's possession until his death in 1831. Ten years later his widow Elizabeth Clothier (born Dyer) presented them to Abraham Dyer King, her sister's grandson, and so restored them to our family. At Abraham King's death in 1866, they passed to his eldest son Francis William Mark King, who in 1919 presented them by deed of gift to his cousin Colonel King, on condition that they were not removed from his house during his life time, but he died in the following year.

## APPENDIX

### LETTER OF WILLIAM KING TO HIS SON ABRAHAM DYER KING, CONCERNING THE FAMILY PORTRAITS

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP.

*September 20th, 1841.*

DEAR SON,

I received yours in due time, and glad to hear you arrived safe, but you did not say the eggs cream and cheese arrived in good order. You did not inform me whether you were charged for the carriage of the cheese, when you wrote. Pleased to name that Aunt Clothier received the sausages, and they were very good, she thanks you for the same.

You requested me to inform you the names and relationship of portraits that Aunt Clothier presented you with. 1st. picture, a man in uniform is Thomas King great-uncle to Grandfather King. 2nd. a dark complexioned female is his mother-in-law. 3rd. a fair complexioned female is Thomas King's wife. 4th. a boy with shepherd's dog and crook is a son of the said Thomas King, the boy's name Jonathan. It appears by a book that Aunt Clothier had got in her possession, the wife of Thomas King's maiden name was Fruzan Constable, she has her name in this book, April 21st. 1710. This said Thomas King held a commission in the Army, but cannot say what rank. The King family is interred under the communion table in the



chancel in Leigh Church. There is one name Daniel King, the first name on the stone, died Nov. 22nd. 1720, aged 58. The 2nd. is William King Sept. 1st. 1742, aged 66. The 3rd. William King's wife, died June 6th. 1747, aged 66, same as the husband. The 4th. is Clark King, died July 1st. 1781, aged 73. Clark King was son of William King, Uncle Clothier was apprenticed to this said Clark King. The portrait that you have got is Thomas King, his name is not on the stone, if the register was searched, I suppose I should find the name there. Now as Thomas King was great-uncle to Grand-father, there are three generations since that, my father myself and you, if you think it proper to have the register searched I will do it.

When you were down in the country, sometime since, not the last time, you asked me if there was anything to be sold. I do not know whether you meant houses or land, there is a freehold premises in Leigh to be sold belonging to James Bigg. He was a baker in Leigh, a great many years afterwards he lived at Soho Turnpike gate, now he lives on what little the premises brings in. I suppose you saw it, when down in the country. You know where George Perkins lives, it is about one hundred yards from his house. Farther up the street on the left hand. It is in three tenements, but very much out of repair. There is a very good garden belonging to the same. I believe he has been offered £75 for the same. Please to let me know as soon as possible.

I have not had a paper regularly every week, I think one or two are missing since you were down in the country. When you write let me know about eggs butter cream and cheese, and whether you paid carriage for the cheese. Bets and family are all well, Aunt Clothier is but poorly, I think she breaks up very fast. Please to give my love to Isaac and David, likewise to their wives and families, and accept the same yourself and wife, and remain,

Your loving Father,  
WILLIAM KING.

*To Mr. A. D. King, Builder.  
16, Great Winchester Street  
City. London.*

## CHAPTER IX

### THE LAST GENERATIONS AT LEIGH

THE story of the last two generations of our family at Leigh is one of ever-increasing difficulties. Edward King, the eldest son of Philip King, was brought up to the old family business, but he died in 1791, leaving behind a young widow and five children. When his sons William and Mark grew to manhood, the business, which had supported six generations of their family, had ceased to exist. Both were apprenticed to builders, and so began the connection of our family with a new industry, in which it was destined to achieve such marked success, and to attain to a degree of prosperity far beyond anything that it had ever yet known. Mark King went up to London to make his way in the world, and for a time William King was working with him, but returned to Leigh to end his days there after the death of his younger brother. For the next generation life in the old home had become utterly impossible, the family had sunk into a state of poverty such as it had never known before; there were no openings left in a decayed little country village such as Leigh had now become, and had our family remained there they must in all human probability have sunk to the condition of the labourers around them. As his three sons became old enough, William King apprenticed them to their uncle Mark King, and on the death of the latter in 1830, they finally settled in London, where their descendants have ever since remained. Such was the end of the connection of the senior branch of our family with Leigh-upon-Mendip, where it had been established for over two hundred years. But the younger branch of the family,

the descendants of Edward King's brother Philip, who married Elizabeth Flower, remained behind at Leigh for another two generations, and there may possibly be some of them still living in the neighbourhood.

#### 6TH GENERATION

#### EDWARD KING = FRANCES DYER

Edward King, the eldest son of Philip King and Constance (born Osborne) his wife, was baptized at Leigh in 1752. He was brought up like his father before him to the family business of a stocking maker, as we know from a bond for £20, dated 1780, owing by him to his great-uncle Clark King, which is still in existence, and in which he is so described. He married at Leigh in 1774 Frances Dyer, the second daughter of John Dyer of Wedmore, who bore to him four sons and four daughters. She was a grand-daughter of Doctor John Shartman of Wedmore, whose eldest daughter Frances had married John Dyer, and she inherited from her grandfather two closes of land at Wedmore, known as Moorway Close and Coombe Close, which remained in our family until 1913, when they were sold by Francis William Mark King. Edward King is supposed to have lived in the cottage at Leigh already mentioned, which bears over its door his initials and those of his wife with the date 1783, and there doubtless he died on March 20th 1791, at the early age of thirty-eight years. He is said to have died of cancer of the stomach, and was buried in Leigh churchyard.

Frances King had been born at Wedmore in 1755, and now found herself a widow at thirty-five years of age, almost without means, and with five young children to bring up, the eldest of them only eleven years of age. Whilst she was greatly helped by her father and father-in-law, both of whom were still living, it was to her eldest brother Abraham Dyer, that she always turned for advice and guidance in



every difficulty. This Abraham Dyer was a man of very fine character, sympathetic and kindly, generous and unselfish, always ready to help others, and his memory was ever preserved with deep affection and gratitude by his sister's children. It was on her brother's advice that Frances King apprenticed her sons to the building trade, now that the old family business was at an end. She is said to have been a woman of very exceptional character, and her children always held her in the deepest affection and esteem. We find an indication of this on record at the end of the will of her youngest son Mark King, in the words, 'and lastly I desire to be buried by the side of my Mother at Leigh-upon-Mendip'. Frances King died at Leigh on January 11th 1828 aged seventy-two years, eleven weeks after making her will, and was laid by the side of her husband in the village churchyard, where their memorial can still be seen. Her will was never proved, and was found amongst the papers of Francis William Mark King in 1920.

The children of Edward King and Frances his wife, were :—

1. James King, baptized at Leigh 1775, and buried there 1776 : memorial inscription.
2. Edward King, baptized at Leigh 1777, and died young.
3. Betty, baptized at Leigh 1778, and buried there 1787.
4. Patty, baptized at Leigh 1780, twice married, firstly, a certain Lewis, by whom she had three daughters ; secondly, Michael Gotobed of Hoxton, builder, by whom she had one son and one daughter ; she was buried at Leigh in 1835.
5. William King, from whom we are descended.
6. Nancy, baptized at Leigh 1784 ; married at Leigh in 1809 James Lane of Leigh, by whom she had a daughter Sarah. She died before 1830.



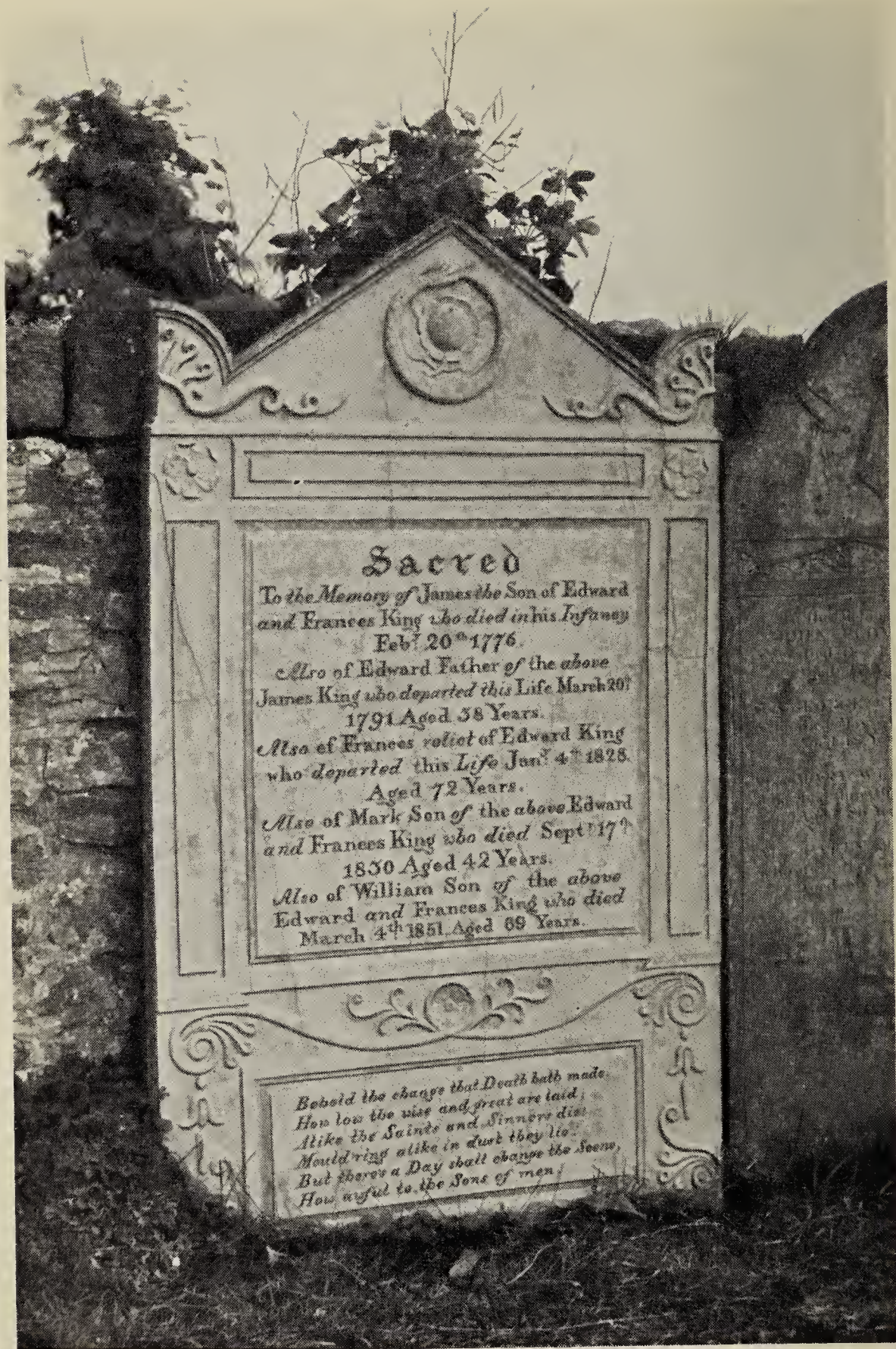


*From a photograph by G. C. Bradbury, Frome.*

EDWARD KING'S COTTAGE AT LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP.

*Facing p. 62.*





*From a photograph by G. C. Bradbury, Frome.*

THE FAMILY GRAVE AT LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP.



7. Charlotte, baptized at Leigh 1786 ; twice married at Leigh, firstly, John Farr of Witham Friary, in 1810 ; secondly, John West of Leigh, in 1821. She is mentioned in her brother Mark's will as living at Taunton in 1830. A sampler made by her when a child, was given by Elizabeth Bryant to Colonel King in 1893.
8. Mark King, baptized at Leigh 1788, married Mary Davis of Fulham, died at Stamford 1830, buried at Leigh. See separate note later.

#### 7TH GENERATION

#### WILLIAM KING = MARTHA PADFIELD-FLOWER

William King, the eldest surviving son of Edward King, was baptized at Leigh in 1782. On the advice of his uncle he was apprenticed to a builder, and at nineteen years of age we find him paying for the education of his younger brother Mark, to whom he was always devotedly attached. During the French Wars he served in the local regiment of light horse, the Frome and East Mendip Volunteers, which had squadrons at Frome Mells and Nunney, and his sword was long preserved by his daughter Betsy Bryant, and after her by her daughter Elizabeth Bryant, but was lost about 1893. He married at Kilmersdon in 1804 Martha, the second daughter of David Padfield of Coleford, Yeoman, and of Mary, the daughter of Nathaniel Flower, also of Coleford. She bore to her husband three sons and one daughter, and to the sons were given names entirely new in our family. William King baptized his eldest son by the name of Abraham Dyer, in memory of the uncle to whom they all owed so much ; his second son was called Isaac, after Isaac Dyer, another of his mother's brothers ; and the third son was called David, after Martha King's father, David Padfield. The marriage of William King turned out a very unhappy one. Some

unfortunate difference of temperament made it impossible for him and his wife to live together, and eventually about 1819 they separated; William King went up to London to join his brother Mark, whose affairs were beginning to prosper, and Martha King with her children returned to Coleford to live with her brother David Padfield-Flower, until her death in 1833, at the age of fifty-two years. She died of cancer resulting from a fall, and was buried at Coleford. A woman of deep religious feeling, she was dearly loved by her children, who themselves erected the memorial to her memory, on which they inscribed the words of that text from Isaiah, which as she lay dying, we are told,<sup>1</sup> brought to her great joy and happiness:—

‘ Arise ! Shine ! For thy light is come,  
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.’

They always expressed great regard for their uncle, David Padfield-Flower, who had shown such kindness and sympathy to his sister in her unhappy married life, and it was after him that Isaac King named his youngest son, David Flower. He died at Coleford in 1872 at the age of eighty-one.

William King, after separating from his wife, was working for some years in London as a builder, and in 1824, when he apprenticed his son Abraham to his brother Mark, was living in Wilderness Lane, St. Bride's. When Mark King set up in business at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, William King went with him, and it was not until after his wife's death in 1833, that he returned to Leigh-upon-Mendip. Here he spent the remainder of his life, living on the proceeds of a small annuity, the rents of his land at Wedmore, and of seven cottages, which he possessed at Coleford, and which remained in the possession of our family, until they were sold by Francis William Mark King in 1920. William King's house at Leigh is described by those who knew it, as a small comfortable house at the back of the

<sup>1</sup> In a letter of her brother David Padfield-Flower, to his nephew Abraham Dyer King, dated September 14th 1843.

Church, which was pulled down after his death. It is presumably the same as the house called 'Moxhams', which Clark King had left to his grandfather, Philip King, in 1781, and at the death of the latter to his eldest son Edward, 'for the remaining term and estate therein'. But as Edward King predeceased his father Philip, it doubtless passed to William King, as Edward's eldest surviving son.

When his aunt Elizabeth Clothier died at Leigh in 1844, at the age of eighty, William King found himself one of her trustees and executors, and since his cousin and co-trustee, Thomas Nicholas,<sup>1</sup> declined to act, the duty of winding up the estate fell upon his shoulders. Elizabeth Clothier was a younger sister of his mother; she was born at Wedmore in 1764, and in 1817 became the second wife of William Clothier, Clark King's old apprentice, then over seventy years of age. He was in his day the most prominent man at Leigh, and acted as Churchwarden from 1805-1809; he died in 1831. The bulk of Elizabeth Clothier's property was left to William King, and his daughter Betsy Bryant, and her children.

There is in existence a collection of forty-two letters written from Leigh by William King to his eldest son Abraham in London, between 1834 and 1851. In them we see reflected the quiet placid life of the little village, and the pride of the old man in the business successes of his eldest and youngest sons. But the constant failures of his second son Isaac, appear to have been a considerable worry to him. The birth of his grandson in 1847 gave him great joy, and he writes to Abraham begging him to name him William Mark, after himself and the brother he had loved so dearly. As the baby however died a year later, the names were given to the next son, Francis William Mark. In the autumn of 1850 his health began to fail rapidly, and in December he writes begging his son

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nicholas was the son of Elizabeth Clothier's youngest sister Rebecca Dyer, who married Samuel Nicholas at Wedmore in 1798.



to come to him, saying, ' You must be quick, as my time is but short '. He rallied a little, and in January was moved to his daughter Betsy Bryant's farm, at Pitten Street, just outside the village. His last letter was written on January 27th, and he died of old age on March 4th, in his seventieth year.

William King is described by those who had known him at Leigh, as a gentle kindly old man, well educated, and highly respected in the village, where he was regarded as having come down in the world. But the happiness of his early life had been ruined by the unfortunate differences with his wife. He was the last of our branch of the family to reside at Leigh-upon-Mendip, with the exception of his daughter Betsy Bryant, and the last to be described as a Yeoman. In his will, made three months before his death, he appointed his sons Abraham and David, to be his executors, and he was buried with his parents in the family grave in Leigh churchyard. There are a few relics of him and of the old home at Leigh in the possession of Colonel King: his prayer-book and a pair of brass candlesticks, derived from Elizabeth Bryant; a silver tankard bearing the monogram W. C. B. D., for William Clothier and Betty Dyer, doubtless a wedding present; and two small silver cream jugs, one with the initials A. W.,<sup>1</sup> which came from Francis William Mark King.

The children of William King and Martha his wife, were :—

1. Betsy, baptized at Leigh 1805; married at Kilmersdon in 1829, Charles Bryant of Stoke Lane, Yeoman, and had four sons and six daughters; died at Edford 1882, and buried at Coleford. (See Part II, Chapter I.)

<sup>1</sup> The tankard has hall-marks of the year 1775-76, the maker's initials being W. T. The smaller cream jug has hall-marks of the year 1743-44, the maker's initials being S. M., and the larger cream jug, bearing the initials A. W., has hall-marks of the year 1794-95, the maker's initials being P. P.





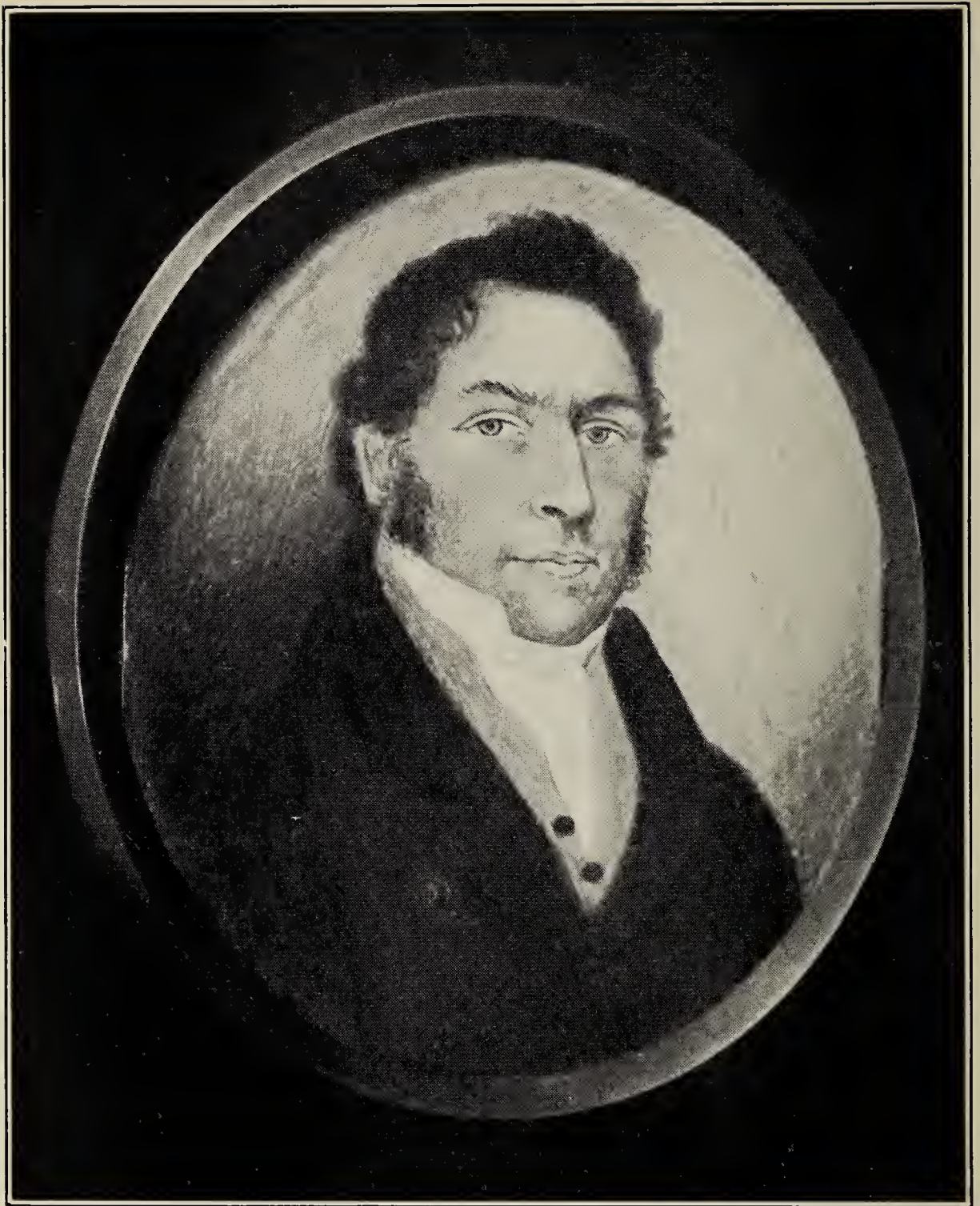
*From a photograph by T. Edgell, Coleford.*

DAVID PADFIELD FLOWER OF COLEFORD.

Born 1791. Died 1872.

*Facing p. 66.*





*From a miniature in the possession of Mrs. Dorothy Watt.*

MARK KING OF ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCHE.

Born 1788. Died 1830.



2. Abraham Dyer King, baptized at Leigh 1807, married at St. Pancras, London, in 1839 Caroline Steel; died at Chelsea 1866, and buried in Brompton Cemetery. (See Chapter XI.)
3. Isaac King, born at Leigh 1809, married firstly, at Shoreditch, London, in 1883 Martha Hart; secondly at Cotmanhay, Derbyshire, in 1862, Harriett Sanderson, died at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, 1876, and buried in Brompton Cemetery. (See Chapter XII.)
4. David King, born at Leigh 1812, married at St. Pancras, London, in 1838, Elizabeth Gent; died at Upper Norwood 1877, and buried at Ilford. (See Chapter XV.)

## MARK KING

Mark King, the younger brother of William King, was the successful business man of his generation. Born at Leigh in 1788, he was apprenticed to a builder like his brother William, and early in the nineteenth century went up to London to seek his fortune. He there became foreman to Thomas Cubitt, the famous builder, then at the beginning of his career.<sup>1</sup> He used to tell an amusing story of how he obtained the position. Cubitt advertised for a foreman, and Mark King, seeing the advertisement, applied for the position. At the interview Cubitt remarked, 'I want a fellow, who can damn and swear a bit', to which Mark King replied, 'Then damme, I am your man'. Cubitt was so pleased with the reply that he engaged him on the spot, and he was employed as foreman in the building of the Burlington Arcade, opened March 20th, 1819,

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Cubitt was born at Buxton, near Norwich, in 1788, the same year as Mark King and died in 1855. Originally a journeyman carpenter, he became the leading builder in London. His son George Cubitt was raised to the Peerage as Baron Ashcombe in 1892.

and the London Institution in Finsbury Circus, opened April 21st, 1819. In London he became acquainted with the three brothers Thomas Henry and Richard Ashby, who were all three builders, and the two latter very successful men. They had come up from Oxfordshire to seek their fortunes in London. Thomas Ashby's eldest son, John Thomas Ashby, was afterwards apprenticed to Mark King, which began the long and intimate connection between the families of Ashby and King, since cemented by four marriages.

In London Mark King was joined by his elder brother William, who had now separated from his wife, and in 1824 his nephew Abraham Dyer King was apprenticed to him. Shortly afterwards he was sent down by Cubitt to Ashby-de-la-Zouche to superintend some work there, and finally decided to settle there as a builder on his own account. William King followed his brother Mark, who now took as his apprentices his other two nephews, Isaac and David King, and also John Thomas Ashby. Hard-working energetic and capable, Mark King was on the high road to success when his career was suddenly cut short. In 1830 he was taken seriously ill at Stamford, and on September 17th died of cancer of the stomach, like his father before him, at the early age of forty-two years. By his special instructions he was buried in the family grave at Leigh-upon-Mendip. In London he had married Mary Davis, the sister of a certain John Davis of Fulham. She was twelve years older than her husband, and they had no children. Mark King was a singularly handsome man, tall like all his race, and of very distinguished appearance ; he was extremely popular wherever he went, though according to tradition he led a somewhat irregular life. A miniature of him is in the possession of Mrs. Dorothy Watt,<sup>1</sup> and his secretaire in that of Colonel King. These were left by his widow to his nephew Isaac King, whose youngest daughter Nelly Maria King gave them to their

<sup>1</sup> Copies of this miniature are in the possession of William Isaac King and Colonel King.

present owners. His writing desk has also been in the possession of Colonel King since the death of Francis William Mark King in 1920.

Under the terms of his will, made at Stamford only three weeks before his death, Mark King appointed as his trustees, James Malcolm, his confidential clerk, and Yates Bedford, an accountant. His estate was left to his widow for her life, and afterwards to be divided between his nephews and nieces. Mary King continued to live at his house 'The Paragon', at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, for many years, but some time after 1844 she sold it to the railway company, and realizing the remainder of her husband's property, invested it in an annuity. There was great indignation in the family, and Michael Gotobed, the second husband of Mark King's sister Patty, endeavoured to persuade them to take action to prevent it. But apparently Mary King gave him a handsome inducement to cease agitating, and on his withdrawal the indignation gradually subsided. After leaving Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Mary King resided at 51, Virginia Place, Dover Road, Southwark, where she made her will in 1855. She died at 2, Brunswick Terrace, in 1858, aged eighty-two years, and was buried in one of the London Cemeteries. She left most of her possessions to her niece Susan Ray, and thus many things that had belonged to Mark King, or to earlier generations, and which would have been of the greatest interest, were finally lost to the family.

## APPENDIX

LETTER OF MARK KING TO WILLIAM CLOTHIER.

LONDON

*August 18th, 1820.*

DEAR UNCLE AND AUNT

I hope you will excuse my not writing to you before respecting your Newbury Bank Bill, but I could not get a satisfactory answer from them. I wrote five letters to Newbury, before they would take the trouble to look after the note. At last



I went to the Commissioners at Guildhall, and found out which way to proceed. I accordingly soon found that their business was put into Chancery, and they expect when it comes out, they shall be able to pay very near twenty shillings in the pound. You may rely on it I never will leave sight of them, until I have got to the bottom of it, for if I had not been so much taken up in my business, I would have gone to one of the Lord Chancellor's Clerks before this time, and known in what state the business was in. I will the first opportunity attend to that particular point.

Dear Uncle since writing the above, I have seen one of the most pleasing sights that I ever did see before. The Queen in her state carriage drawn by six bay horses and not less than twenty thousand people following her with hats off, and "long live the Queen, may God bless her, and may she get over her enemies" was so loudly cried from every person, old and young, men women and children, that you could scarcely hear yourself speak, the heat of the morning and the pressure of the crowd, many fainted away, and some hundreds with tears in their eyes with joy for their Queen. Must conclude with my love and best wishes for you Aunt and Mary Clothier,<sup>1</sup> and remain.

Your loving nephew and niece

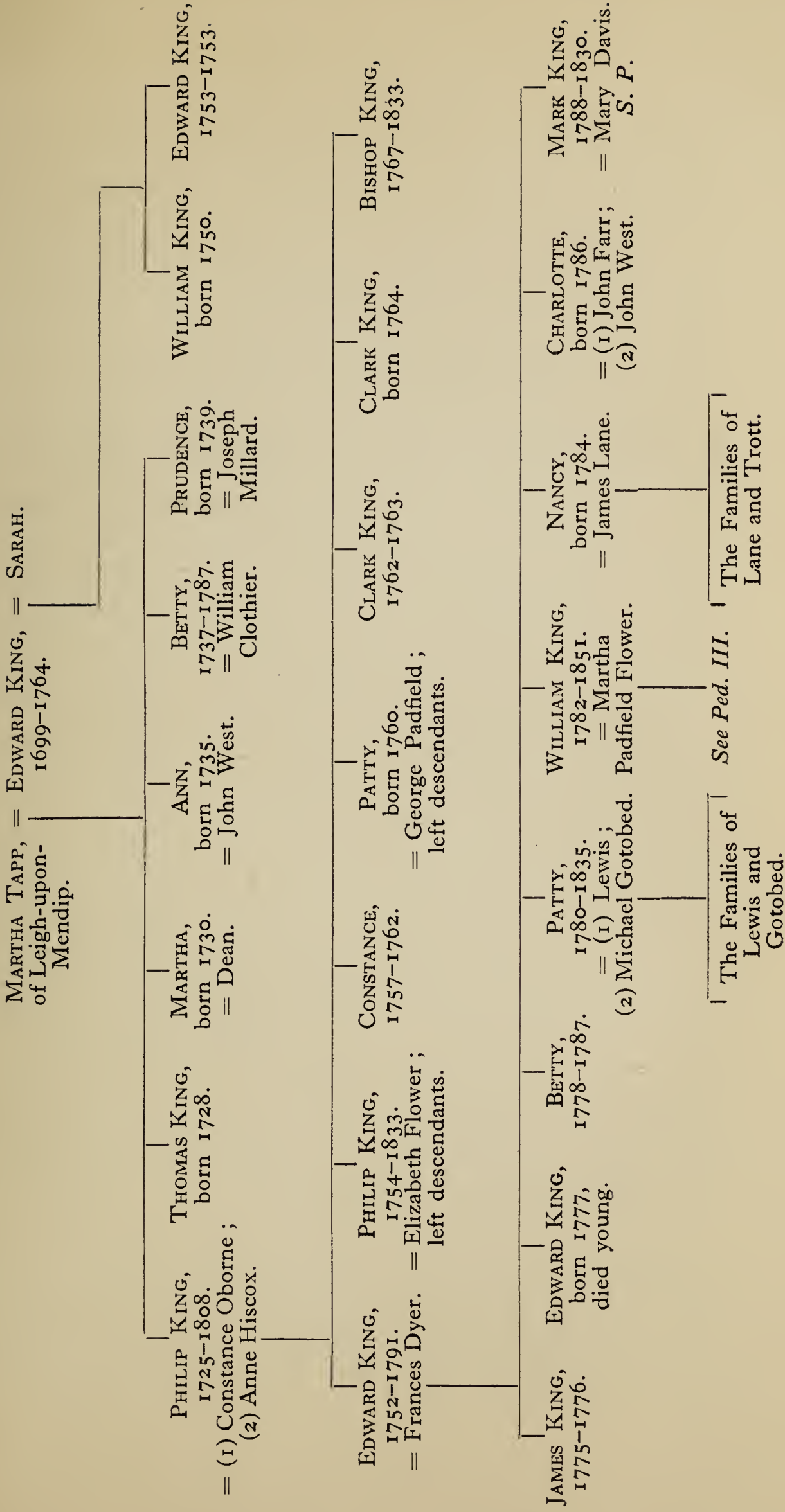
MARK and MARY KING.

*To William Clothier Esq.,  
Leigh-upon-Mendip  
Near Frome  
Somersetshire.*

<sup>1</sup> This Mary Clothier was a daughter of John Clothier of Whatley, by his wife Henrietta, who died at Whatley in 1826, aged forty-nine. John Clothier was born at Nunney in 1771, and was a son of Charles Clothier, a brother of William Clothier of Leigh. Mary Clothier was born at Whatley in 1799, and in 1823 married Philip Season (born 1801); by him she had two daughters—Betsy Clothier Season, who married Abraham Lewis, son of John Lewis of Knapp's Hill, by whom she had a daughter Martha; and Henrietta Sarah Season, who married Alfred Earl, by whom she had a daughter, Blanche Earl.

PEDIGREE No. II

# THE LATER GENERATIONS AT LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP



## CHAPTER X

### THE WEDMORE PROPERTY

**D**URING the first half of the eighteenth century, there was living at Stoughton Cross, near Wedmore, a certain John Shartman,<sup>1</sup> by profession a surgeon. He died in 1762, leaving considerable property in the neighbourhood of Wedmore, which he distributed amongst his descendants under the terms of his will, made the previous year. Of this property, he left two pieces of ground, known as Moorway Close and Coombe Close, the latter about three acres, on trust for the benefit of his grand-daughter Frances Dyer, then six years old. Both these pieces of ground were leasehold, except one acre of Coombe Close, which was freehold. The rents of this property were to be used by his trustees for the maintenance and education of Frances Dyer, until she reached twenty-one years of age, when Coombe Close was to be handed over to her. But Moorway Close was not to become her property until the death of her mother, who was to enjoy the use of it during her lifetime. Moreover, in the event of John Shartman's two eldest surviving sons, Jacob and Isaac, who had emigrated beyond the seas, returning to England, then Moorway Close was to go forthwith to them jointly, and to become the property of the survivor, but neither of them ever did return.

<sup>1</sup> John Shartman was living at Wedmore as early as 1721, when his son William was born there; his first wife Frances died there in 1736; by her he had five sons and three daughters. He married a second wife, Mary Warman, the following year, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. He died at Wedmore in 1762, and his widow died there in 1802.



Frances Dyer was the second daughter of John Shartman's eldest surviving daughter Frances, who had married John Dyer of Wedmore.<sup>1</sup> This younger Frances Dyer married Edward King of Leigh-upon-Mendip in 1774, and died in 1828. In her will she made no reference to this property, apparently under the impression that she had only a life interest in it. When her eldest son William King came to investigate the matter, it was discovered that no title deeds of any sort or description existed, that no rent had ever been claimed or paid for the leasehold, and that it had always been treated exactly as if it were freehold. The family being unable to agree as to how to deal with this land, it was decided to refer the question as to what were their respective interests under the wills of John Shartman and their mother to Mr. Serjeant W. Taddy, and to abide by his opinion, which was given on June 29th 1830, and was to the following effect :—

‘ It is very clear that the freehold Acre of Ground belongs to the eldest son of Mrs. King as Tenant in Tail ; with respect to the rest of the landed Estate the difficulty is in ascertaining whether it be leasehold or freehold, but as John Shartman describes and devises it as leasehold, it appears to me that it must be so considered, and in that view it must be equally divided among all the children of Mrs. King, and the grandchildren will take the share of their Parents, if any of the children of Mrs. King are dead. The Will of Mrs. King applies only to the sums of money therein mentioned, which will go as she has directed.’

There were five persons to benefit under this decision, namely, William King and Mark his brother, with their sisters, Patty, the wife of Michael Gotobed of Hoxton, and Charlotte, the wife of John West of Wilton, and their niece Sarah, daughter of their deceased sister Nancy, the wife of James Lane of Leigh. It was decided that William

<sup>1</sup> John Dyer, the son of Thomas and Hannah Dyer, was born at Wedmore in 1723, and died there in 1812. By his wife Frances Shartman he had four sons and six daughters ; she died at Wedmore in 1786, aged fifty-two years.

King, as the eldest, should buy out the interests of the other four for the sum of £166 8s. od., the total value of the leasehold property being calculated at £208. Accordingly a deed was drawn up on July 24th 1830, to give effect to this arrangement, and is still in existence.

There are frequent mentions of his Wedmore property in the letters of William King to his son Abraham, and from them we learn that Moorway Close was in Wedmore Moor, about two acres in extent, and a little difficult of access after heavy rains. The whole property, including Coombe Close, consisted therefore of five acres of ground, which in 1851, the year of William King's death, was let to a certain Richard Morgan at a rental of £17 a year. The property passed on William King's death to his eldest son Abraham Dyer King, and on his death in 1866 to his eldest surviving son Francis William Mark King, who sold it in 1913. It had thus been in the possession of our family for nearly a century and a half.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE KINGS OF CHELSEA AND NORWOOD

ON the death of Mark King at Stamford in 1830, his three nephews, Abraham, Isaac and David King, had no other course open to them but to go up to London to seek their fortunes, as we have seen. The successful career of their uncle as a builder had already shown them the road to follow, and the time was one of unusual opportunity for builders, since the great expansion of London had just begun. Abraham and David, the eldest and youngest of the sons of William King, were thoroughly successful business men; the former settled at Chelsea, his children afterwards moving to Norwood; whilst the latter lived most of his life in the City of London. The second son Isaac King was always a failure and a wanderer, but his sons were to prove the most successful business men that the family had yet produced, and three of them built up very considerable fortunes. The next generation continued to progress, and amongst them are to be found the first soldiers of the family, since the days of Thomas King and the Wars of the Spanish Succession, two hundred years before. In London our family has continued to show the qualities characteristic of the stock from which it has sprung. The men for the most part industrious, capable, and thrifty; conscientious in their attitude to life, and generally with strong religious feelings, though the old Puritan outlook of the first generation has gradually passed away. In politics the family has completely thrown aside the old Whig traditions brought with them from East Somerset, and the second generation in London, as it attained to ever increasing worldly prosperity,



changed its politics and became Conservative. The first two generations were by occupation almost all builders, architects, or surveyors, but their children and their grand-children have shown a marked tendency to seek their careers in new directions.

#### 8TH GENERATION

#### ABRAHAM DYER KING = CAROLINE STEELE

Abraham Dyer King, the eldest son of William King, was baptized at Leigh-upon-Mendip in 1807. In 1824, at the age of seventeen, he was apprenticed to his uncle, Mark King, who was then carrying on the business of a builder in Stanhope Street, St. Clements Dane. His father was at that time living in Wilderness Lane, St. Bride's, having separated from his wife. When Mark King transferred his business to Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Abraham King went with him, remaining there until the death of his uncle. He then returned to London with his two brothers, and his friend, John Thomas Ashby, all of whom were fellow apprentices. A prudent thrifty man of sound judgment, Abraham King prospered exceedingly, and built up a most successful business. He left a fortune of £20,000, and had it not been for his untimely death, he would probably have been a very rich man. His office was at 16, Great Winchester Street, City, where he also lived until 1848. It was here that he was joined in 1846 by his sister's son, Charles Bryant, then fourteen years of age, whom he took as his apprentice. The poor boy, whilst playing about with a gun at Leigh, had accidentally killed a child called Simeon Rabbitts; feeling on the subject locally ran very high, and so his uncle Abraham, suggested to his sister that she should send him up to London. Charles Bryant turned out a brilliant business man; like his uncle he became a builder, and amassed a large fortune. He always said

of his own career that everything he touched seemed to turn to gold.

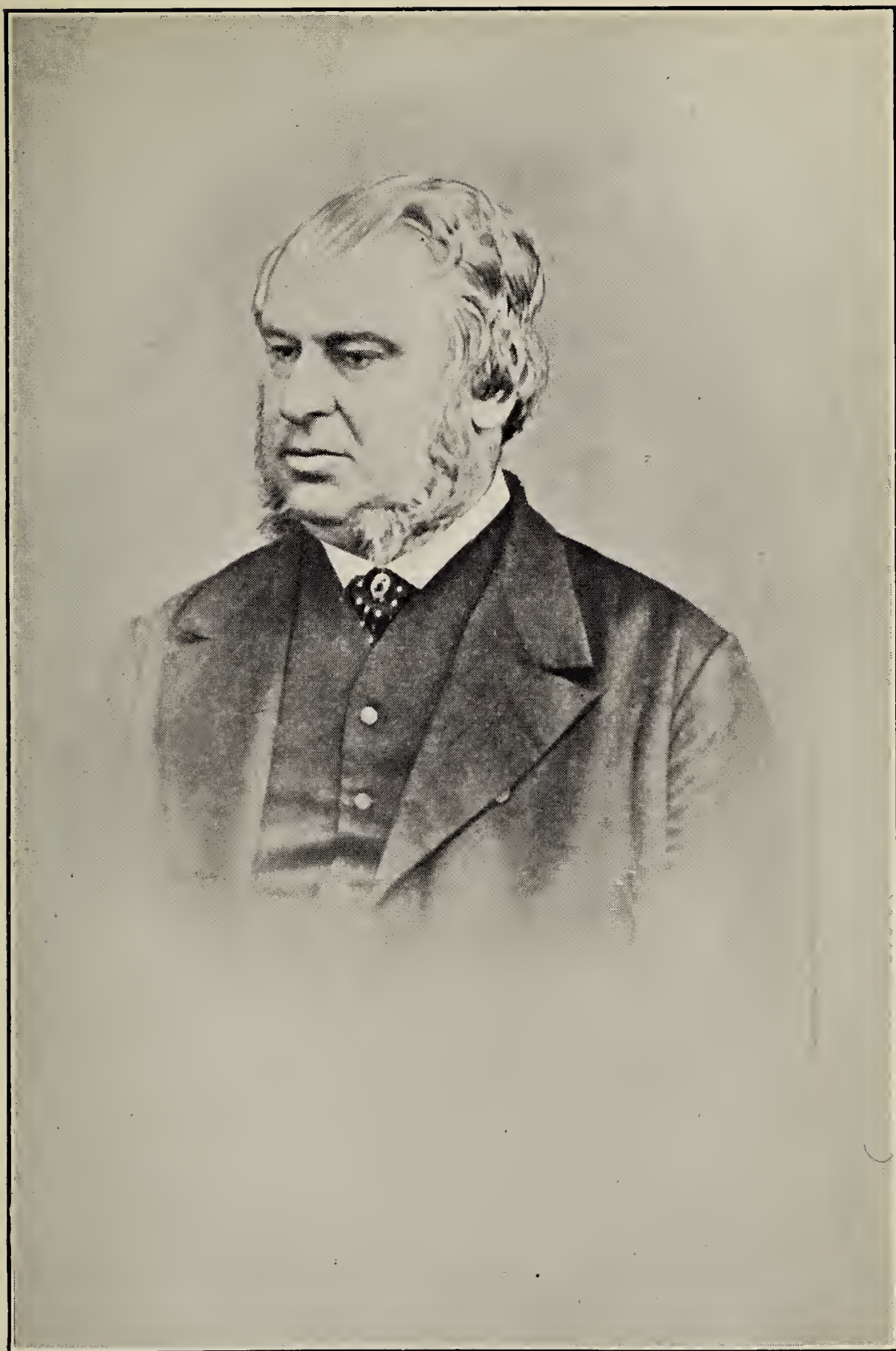
On July 21st 1839, Abraham King married Caroline Steele, then eighteen years of age, at St. Pancras Parish Church. She was the daughter of a certain William Steele, who carried on the business of a cabinet maker in London ; whilst her mother was of French extraction, of a family called Manger. She bore to her husband no fewer than twenty-one children, of whom eleven died nameless in very early infancy. In 1848 Abraham King bought the Clock House at Chelsea, which has since been pulled down, and there resided until his death. He was accidentally killed on March 23rd 1866, when fifty-nine years of age, by falling from the scaffolding of a building ; but it was strongly suspected that the fall was due to deliberate foul play on the part of a workman. He left no will, and was buried in Brompton Cemetery. It is said that King's Place, Chelsea, belonged to him, and that he so called it after his own name.

Abraham King is described by those who remembered him as a good, but stern parent, holding strong religious views of that puritanical type so characteristic of the people of East Somerset. These views were deeply impressed upon all his children, who maintained the old family traditions, long after they had begun to be forgotten by the rest of the family. From his father's correspondence with him, we see that Abraham King was always a good son and brother, and it was always to him that his old father turned for advice and help in any of his doubts and difficulties. He had a great love for his native county, a love which he implanted in all his children. He was constantly visiting Somerset, and to the end of his life always kept in touch with the friends of his boyhood at Leigh-upon-Mendip. His widow Caroline moved to Cumberlow House, South Norwood, in 1874, and lived there for the remainder of her life. She died on December 24th 1891, aged seventy years, and was buried by the side of her husband in Brompton Cemetery.

The surviving children of Abraham Dyer King and Caroline his wife, were :—

1. Elizabeth Ann, born September 12th 1839; married at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on February 3rd 1863, her cousin Franklin Sydney King, by whom she had one daughter, Eleanor Rosina. She died November 20th 1910, aged seventy-one years, and was buried in Queen's Road Cemetery, Croydon.
2. Abraham Henry King, born January 18th 1841, died February 4th 1844, aged three years; buried in Bunhill Fields; memorial inscription in Brompton Cemetery.
3. Charles James King, born 1842, died six months later.
4. Caroline Emily, born July 13th 1843; married at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, on April 26th 1862, Charles Stockwell, son of Charles Stockwell of Chelsea, Gentleman, by whom she had one daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Helen, from whom the families of Dove, Powle, and Lansdown are descended. Her marriage was not a happy one, her husband left her, and on February 17th 1876, at the age of thirty-two years, she was drowned at sea off Dover in the wreck of the *Strathclyde*, when on her way to India; memorial inscription in Brompton Cemetery.
5. Rosina, born July 10th 1844; married at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on August 5th 1868, Richard Ashby, by whom she had six sons and four daughters. Died November 11th, 1918, aged seventy-four years, at Tunbridge Wells, and was buried at Scarborough. From her is descended the family of Ashby of Yorkshire.
6. William Mark King, born October 6th 1847; died February 16th 1849; buried in Brompton Cemetery.





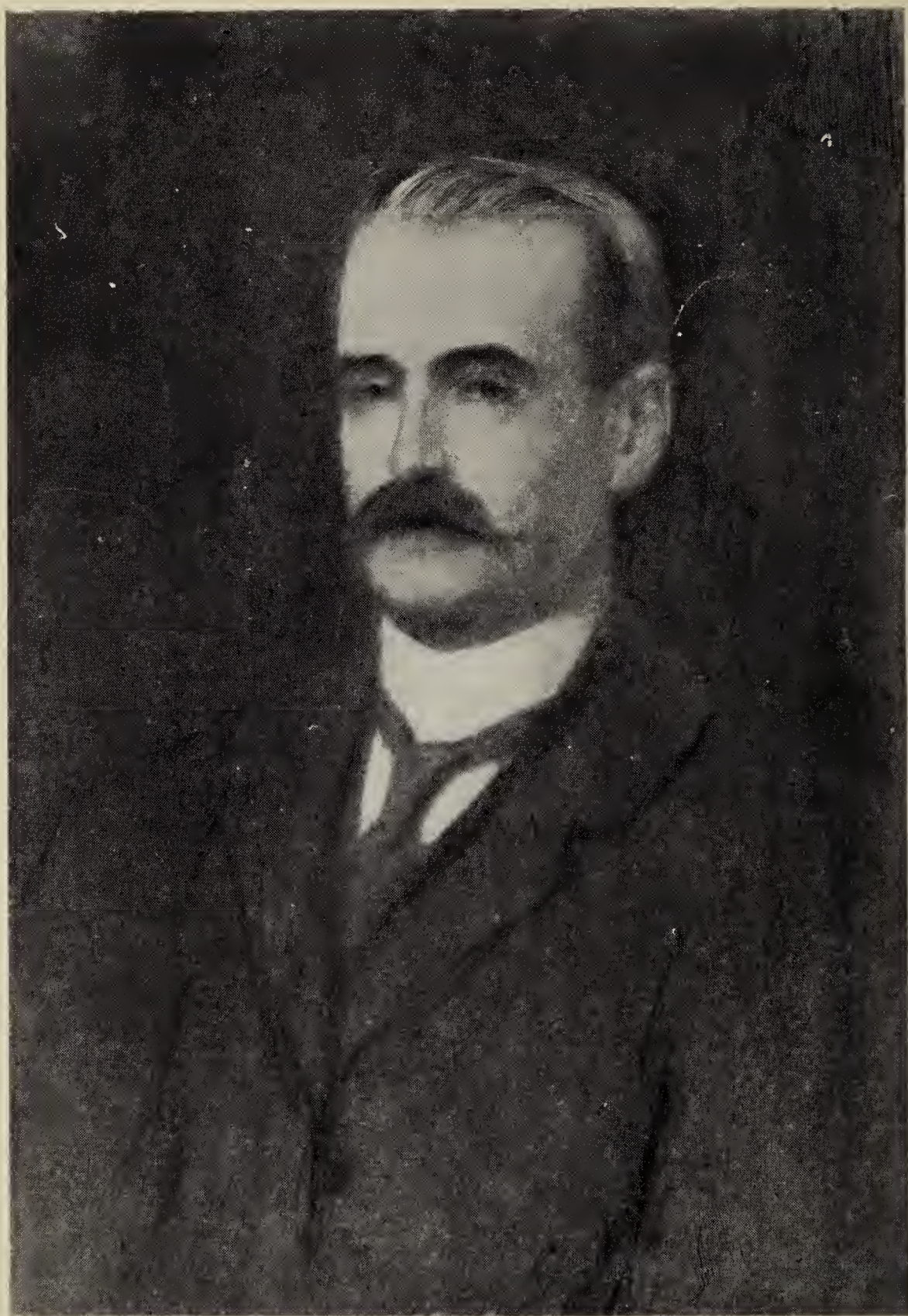
*From a photograph by J. Horsburgh, Edinburgh.*

ABRAHAM DYER KING OF CHELSEA.

Born 1807. Died 1866.

*Facing p. 78.*





*From a painting by B. Kronstrand.*

FRANCIS WILLIAM MARK KING, J.P.  
ALDERMAN OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF CROYDON.  
Born. 1850. Died 1920.



7. Francis William Mark King, born January 25th, 1850. See below.
8. Abraham Edward King, born December 18th 1853 ; educated at the City of London School. Entered the Civil Service, afterwards at Lloyds', and later in business at Coolgardie, Western Australia. Married at Albany, Western Australia in 1890, Charlotte Helena Stoneham, daughter of Allen Stoneham of Beckenham, but returned to England towards the end of his life. He died on December 24th 1923, aged seventy years. His widow died April 3rd 1933. Both were buried at Bromley, Kent. They had no children.
9. Alice Gertrude, born December 1st 1856 ; died November 2nd 1860, aged four years ; buried in Brompton Cemetery.
10. Melinda Clementina Martha, born 1860 ; died March 31st 1868, aged seven years ; buried in Brompton Cemetery.

#### 9TH GENERATION

#### FRANCIS WILLIAM MARK KING

Francis William Mark King, eldest surviving son of Abraham Dyer King and Caroline his wife, was born at Chelsea on January 25th 1850. He was educated at the City of London School, and afterwards became an architect. Having comfortable private means, and a strong sense of duty, he largely devoted his life to public work. In 1889 he was elected a member of the Croydon Borough Council, and in 1905 he became an Alderman, a position which he held until his death. He was Chairman of several of its Committees, and was appointed one of the trustees of the Crystal Palace, to represent the Croydon Council. He was also Chairman of the Governors of the Stanley Schools,



and in 1900 was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Croydon. For many years he was also Chairman of the South Norwood Conservative Association, and in commemoration of his political services a silver salver was presented to him in 1912, which is now in the possession of Colonel King, and which bears upon it the following inscription :—

Presented to  
F. W. M. KING, Esqre, J.P.  
by the  
Executive Council of  
The South Norwood Habitation  
of the  
Primrose League  
A token of appreciation and esteem of his  
unfailing kindness and valuable services  
as  
Ruling Councillor of the Habitation  
April 1912.

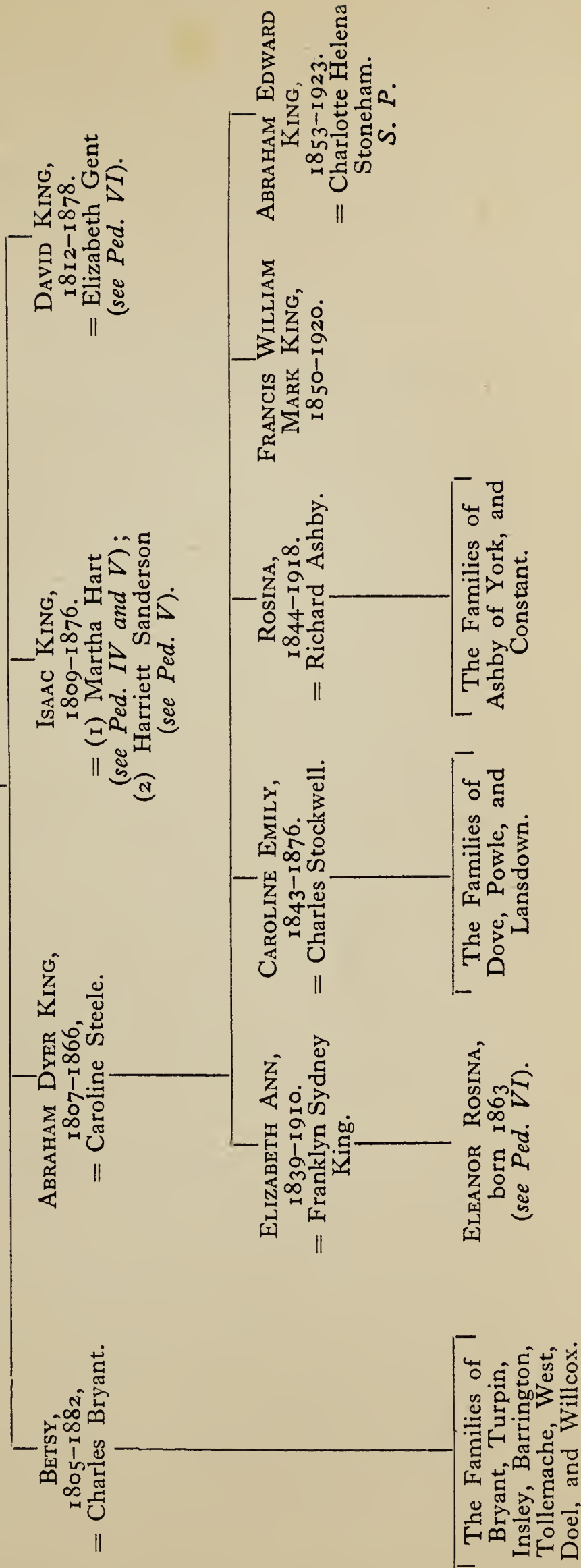
Like his father before him, Francis King had a great love for Somerset, and he kept in constant touch all his life with the relatives and friends that the family had left behind there, when it migrated to London. He had inherited from his father certain cottages at Coleford, and also the Wedmore land. But in the last years of his life he decided to part with this property, selling the Wedmore land in 1913, and the cottages at Coleford in 1920. Francis King never married, and lived at Cumberlow House, South Norwood, all his life. He died there on July 28th 1920, aged seventy years, and was buried in the family grave in Brompton Cemetery.

With the death of his younger brother Abraham Edward King, in 1923, the senior branch of our family became extinct, except in the female line, where it is continued by the families of Ashby of Yorkshire, Dove, Powle, and Lansdown.

*PEDIGREE No. III*

# THE EARLIER GENERATIONS IN LONDON

WILLIAM KING, = MARTHA PADFIELD FLOWER,  
of Leigh-upon-Mendip, of Coleford.  
1782-1851.



## CHAPTER XII

### THE SENIOR SURVIVING BRANCH OF THE FAMILY

WITH the extinction in the male line of the family of Abraham Dyer King in 1923, the descendants of Isaac King became the senior branch of our family. This branch has continued in two main lines. The elder line, the children of Mark William King, now widely scattered, has continued to flourish and prosper. By three of his sons there are numerous descendants, and there appears to be no likelihood of this branch of the family dying out. But the younger line, the children of Edwin King, so long resident at Highgate and Finchley, whilst continuing the upward movement of the family, is likely ultimately to become extinct, except in the female line, through the families of Morrison of Shotley Bridge, and Gray of Fleet. It was from the descendants of Isaac King that so many soldiers were furnished to the British Armies during the Great European War, and their deeds will be found recorded under their names.

On the death of Abraham Edward King without children in 1923, Henry Charles King of Watford, the eldest son of Mark William King, became the head of the family. In 1934, under a warrant of the Earl Marshal, the limitations of the Patent of Armorial Ensigns granted and assigned to Colonel Edwin James King in 1913, was extended by the Kings of Arms to the other descendants of Isaac King, in order to prevent the possibility of the original grant becoming extinct; and in 1936 a Device or Badge, allusive to the services of Colonel Edwin James King



in the First Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, was granted to be borne and used by the descendants of Isaac King upon their Standards or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms.

#### 8TH GENERATION

ISAAC KING = (1) MARTHA HART ;  
(2) HARRIETT SANDERSON

Isaac King, the second son of William King and Martha his wife, was born at Leigh-upon-Mendip on July 5th 1809. He left Somerset when about sixteen years of age, to be apprenticed to his uncle Mark King of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, and on his death in 1830 went up to London with his two brothers. Two years later, on December 22nd 1833, he married his first wife Martha Hart, then nineteen years of age, at Shoreditch Parish Church. She was the youngest daughter of a certain William Hart, woolcomber, of Minchinhampton, and Elizabeth (born Evans) his wife, who came from Stroud. But they had then been living in London for some years. Martha King, after bearing to her husband five sons and three daughters, died on April 14th 1852, aged thirty-nine years, and was buried in Brompton Cemetery. She is said to have been a woman of studious habits and somewhat quick tempered, but a kind and tender wife and mother, and young though most of her children were at her death, they ever cherished her memory with feelings of deep regard and affection.

Isaac King was a great contrast to his two brothers in almost every respect, and entirely lacking in those qualities necessary to success in business. Broad-minded, intellectual, and studious by nature, he was probably in reality more intelligent than either of his brothers, but without their solid characteristics. Their narrow and somewhat puritanical religious views were to him a subject for amusement.

Their frugality and thrift were qualities he was unable to understand, and in all money matters he was generous and careless to an extreme degree, so that throughout his life he was always in financial difficulties. There was about him a certain indolence and good-humoured carelessness, which are never conducive to success in the struggle for existence. But probably he obtained, as such natures so frequently do, more real pleasure and happiness in life than either of his more successful brothers. His was the more lovable nature and he never lacked for friends. He always retained the affection of his children, and in spite of his constant difficulties he managed to give them all a good education, and so to send them out into the world equipped for the battle of life. Poor though he always was, he was one of the most generous and kind-hearted of men, and whenever he was in a position to render help, no one ever appealed to him in vain.

For ten years Isaac King appears to have achieved a certain measure of success as a builder, but by 1840 he was in serious difficulties, as is evident from the letters of his father, who was very worried about him. Both of his brothers generously came to his assistance in spite of their own recent marriages, but from then onwards there was scarcely ever a time when he was not in difficulties. He found, however, a very good friend in the architect Nestfield, for whom he worked for many years, and who helped to start his sons in business. His work for Nestfield took him all over the country. In 1847 and 1848 we find him at King's Lynn, where he buried one son, and another, Walter, was born to him. In 1861 he was in Derbyshire, where he met his second wife, Harriett Sanderson, the daughter of a certain William Sanderson of Louth, in Lincolnshire. He married her at Christ Church, Cotmanhay, on February 15th 1862. She was then forty-one years of age, and bore him a son and a daughter. In 1864 he was at Ipswich, where his daughter Nelly Maria was born, and some years later we find him in Wales. Owing





Aged 54.

*From miniatures in the possession of Colonel King.*

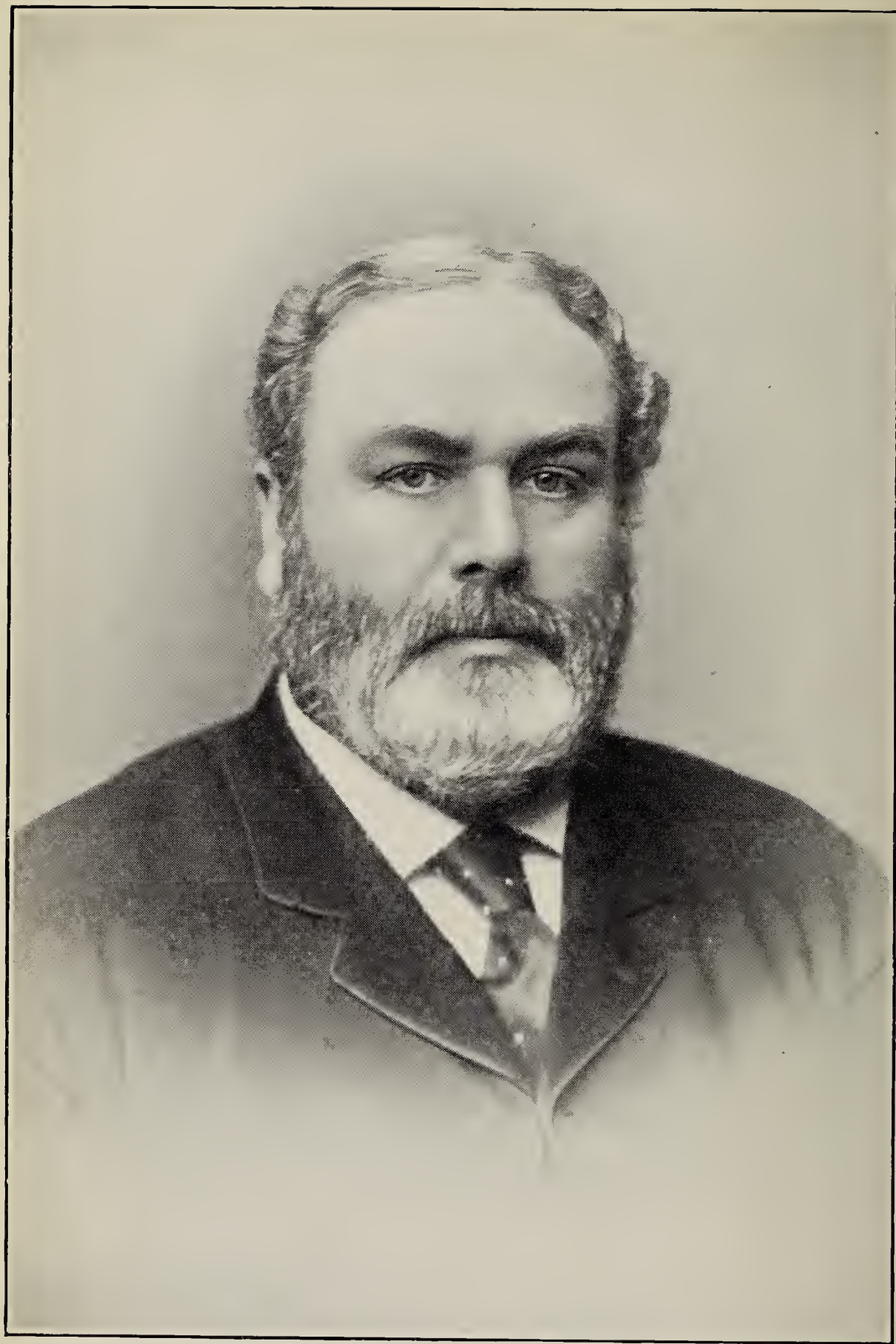
ISAAC KING OF BUCKHURST HILL.

Born 1809. Died 1876.



Aged 65.





*From a photograph by Alexander Bassano, Old Bond St.*

MARK WILLIAM KING OF HIGHGATE.

Born 1834. Died 1895.

to ill-health he retired from business in 1870, and settled down at Ambrose Villa, Buckhurst Hill, where he died of an internal abscess on June 4th 1876, aged sixty-six years. He was buried by the side of his first wife in Brompton Cemetery.

Unlike his two brothers, Isaac King did not keep in the same close contact with his old home and friends in Somerset, and consequently the old family traditions have been largely forgotten by his descendants. No doubt this was due to the unfortunate estrangement between his parents. He had taken the side of his mother, to whom he was devoted, and there was always a certain lack of sympathy between him and his father. After his mother's death in 1833, Somerset seems to have had little further interest for him, although there was always a close bond of affection between him and his only sister, Betsy Bryant. His widow, Harriett King, survived him many years, dying at Highgate on November 20th 1906, at the age of eighty-five. She requested that she might not be buried in the same place as her husband's first wife, and so was buried in the Catacombs of Highgate Cemetery.

The children of Isaac King and Martha, his first wife, were :—

1. Mark William King, born November 11th, 1834.  
(See later.)
2. Eliza, born March 6th 1836; married at Shore-ditch Parish Church on January 14th 1862, Walter John Chardin, by whom she had one son and two daughters; died May 25th 1890, aged fifty-four; buried at Manor Park.
3. Edwin King, born December 3rd 1838. (See Chapter XIII.)
4. Alfred King, born May 1st 1841. (See later.)
5. Walter King, born July 27th 1843; died December 17th 1847, aged four years; buried at King's Lynn.



6. Emma, born April 8th 1846; went to Chicago, U.S.A., in 1871, there married John J. Weigler of Maplewood, a German by birth, by whom she had one son and two daughters. Died at Bensonville, Illinois, U.S.A., January 12th 1930, in her eighty-fourth year.
7. Walter King, born April 11th 1848. By occupation a builder. Lived at Chicago 1872-77; married at West Hackney Parish Church on July 29th 1882, Eliza Christiana Adams, by whom he had one daughter, Emma, born October 24th 1883. His wife died May 24th 1897, and was buried at Enfield. He was accidentally killed by an express train, whilst crossing the level crossing near Tottenham Park Station on March 14th 1922, aged seventy-three years. Buried at Enfield.
8. Clara Elizabeth, born June 8th 1850. Twice married: firstly, at St. Michael's, Highgate, on July 19th 1884, Walter Edmund Gompertz of South Hackney; secondly, at Trinity (Hampstead) Presbyterian Church on June 29th 1889, James Hall of Dublin. She died on February 27th 1914, aged sixty-three years, and was buried at Edinburgh.

The children of Isaac King and Harriett, his second wife, were:—

1. David Flower King, born December 7th 1862. By occupation a builder. Served some years in the 1st London Royal Engineer Volunteers. Went out to Queensland, Australia, in 1885, and died at Nanango, the result of an accident, on November 2nd 1903, aged forty years. He was struck in the back by a falling tree, which he was cutting down, and died in hospital three days later. He never married. Memorial inscription in Brompton Cemetery.



2. Nelly Maria, born April 13th 1864. Lived at Highgate with her brother Edwin King, and after his death with his widow. On June 5th 1920, was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her services during the European War, the official recommendation stating: 'Acted for nearly three years as Hall Orderly at, and organized the Voluntary work for, Queen Alexandra's Hospital'. Died at Cheltenham on May 3rd 1926, aged sixty-two years; was cremated at Golder's Green, and her ashes placed in the family grave at Highgate.

## 9TH GENERATION

MARK WILLIAM KING  
= FRANCES EVANS

Mark William King, the eldest son of Isaac King and Martha, his first wife, was born in London on November 11th 1834. Educated at the City of London School, he eventually became a highly successful architect and surveyor. He worked first under Henry Holland, the builder, after whom his eldest son was called, and it was whilst working for him at Tehidy in Cornwall, that he met his future wife Frances Evans, then 25 years of age, the daughter of James Evans, a Mine Agent. They were married at St. Newlyn Parish Church on December 17th 1862, and had five sons and one daughter. After his marriage Mark William King worked for a time for Chatfield Clarke, the well-known architect, and finally set up as an architect and surveyor in the City of London. An ambitious man of great ability, his career was one of conspicuous success, and he rose high in his profession. For many years he lived at Loughton in Essex, but in

1882 built 'The Grange' at Highgate, where he spent the remainder of his life, the house being sold after his death. He was an exceedingly handsome man of great personal dignity, and much respected and liked by all who knew him. He died at Highgate on August 16th 1895, aged sixty years, and was buried in the Churchyard at High Beach, Essex, in accordance with the wishes that he had expressed. His widow Frances King died a few months later, on April 12th 1896, aged fifty-nine years, and was buried beside her husband at High Beach.

The children of Mark William King and Frances, his wife, were :—

1. Henry Charles King, born September 11th 1863.  
(See later.)
2. William Isaac King, born July 24th 1865. Educated at Forest School and in Switzerland. Served nearly twenty years in the London Rifle Brigade. A member of the Merchant Taylors' Company. An architect and surveyor in the City of London. Married at Handsworth, Birmingham, on April 6th 1921, Olive Kelsey Jordan, resides at Gerrards Cross, has no children.
3. Edwin Franklyn King, born May 19th 1867.  
(See later.)
4. Alfred James King, born April 26th 1869. (See later.)
5. Frances Aldyth Martha, born January 9th 1871 ;  
Married at Rickmansworth on March 8th 1920, Dr. A. E. Clarke, M.D.
6. Sydney Locke King, born September 25th 1873. Educated at Highgate School. Served some years in the London Rifle Brigade. Was a great athlete, and mountaineer, and a member of the Alpine Club. He ascended most of the important peaks in Europe. Accidentally killed in New Zealand on February 23rd 1914, aged





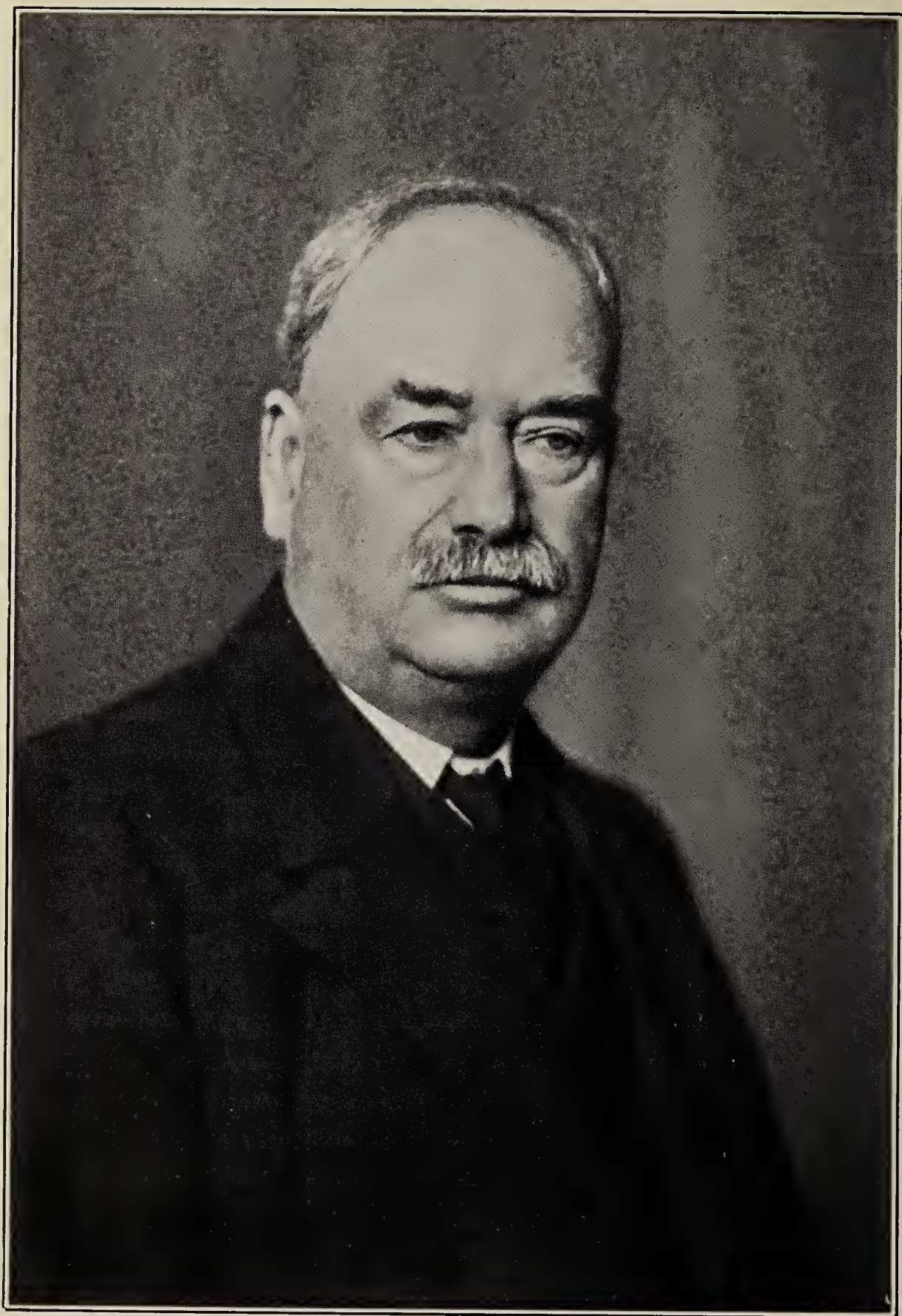
*From a miniature in the possession of Colonel King.*

ALFRED KING OF BROADWATER.

Born 1841. Died 1913.

*Facing p. 88.*





*From a photograph.*

HENRY CHARLES KING OF WATFORD.

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.



forty years. After making the ascent of Mt. Cook, he was overwhelmed by an avalanche with his two guides, Thompson and Richmond, and only the body of one of the guides was ever recovered. A memorial tablet was placed in the Rest Hut at the foot of Mt. Cook.

### ALFRED KING

Alfred King, the third son of Isaac King and Martha, his first wife, was born in London on May 1st 1841. He was educated at the City of London School, and became a builder. On August 6th 1878, he married at St. Matthew's, Brixton, Fanny Louisa Browning, then 17 years of age, the only daughter of a certain James Browning, a builder. Like his two elder brothers, he was a very successful business man, and was greatly influenced in his career by the methods of his cousin Charles Bryant. By his speculations in building in the City of London, he amassed a fortune of nearly £100,000, which, being childless, he left to Guy's Hospital. His failure to have children was a bitter blow to him, and was a disappointment that he felt deeply all his life. His nature became essentially hard and cynical, and though always a very just man, he had none of the kindlier instincts of his brothers. He had, however, a great affection for his brother Edwin King, to whom he was devotedly attached, and on his death in 1895 became one of his trustees, administering his estate with the same painstaking care and attention that he gave to his own until his death. He lived for some years at Cuddington in Buckinghamshire, but afterwards bought the estate of Charman Dean, a fine country mansion at Broadwater, near Worthing, where he spent the latter years of his life. He died there on May 16th 1913, aged seventy-two years. In his last illness he requested that a grave might be bought for him as near to his brother's grave as possible, and for that reason he was buried in Highgate

Cemetery. He drew up his own memorial inscription, and himself designed the monument, afterwards erected over his grave, only three days before his death. His widow died a few months later, on November 26th 1913, aged fifty-two years, and was laid beside him in Highgate Cemetery.

#### 10TH GENERATION

### HENRY CHARLES KING = MARY ISABEL COMBES

Henry Charles King, the eldest son of Mark William King and Frances his wife, was born on September 11th 1863. Educated at Forest School and in Switzerland, he matriculated in the University of London. After making a voyage round the world he settled in London as a solicitor, and became a partner in the well-known firm of Tarry, Sherlock, and King. Is a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company. In 1922 he published *Records and Documents Concerning Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street*. On September 9th 1896, he married at Bishop's Cannings, Wiltshire, Mary Isabel Combes,<sup>1</sup> who bore to him three sons and five daughters. She was the younger sister of his brother Alfred James King's wife. On the death of his cousin, Abraham Edward King, in 1923, he became the head of the family. They reside at Watford.

The children of Henry Charles King and Isabel, his wife, are :—

1. Irene May, born May 28th 1897; died November 10th 1910, aged thirteen years; buried at Watford.
2. Phyllis Mildred, born October 1st 1898.

<sup>1</sup> Born February 21st 1870, her father, James Combes (born March 4th 1826), married on May 6th 1863, Emily Bracher, born June 7th 1833.



3. Robert Launcelot King, born February 20th 1900.  
Educated at Rugby. During the European War served in France and Flanders in the ranks of the 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers in the 12th Division. He went out to France in August 1918, and took part in the Advance to Victory. He was present at the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, and the Battles of Epéhy, the St. Quentin Canal, and the Selle. After the Armistice, his Division moved into the Douai area, and he was demobilized in February 1919. A solicitor in partnership with his father.
4. Gilbert Arnold King, born September 21st 1902.  
Educated at Clifton. A solicitor in partnership with his father.
5. Margery Joan, born August 23rd 1904.
6. Angela Veronica, born August 24th 1910.
7. William Lawrence King, born October 11th 1911.  
Educated at Clifton. Serving in the Cavalry Squadron, Inns of Court Regiment. A chartered accountant.
8. Vera Monica, born May 26th 1913.

EDWIN FRANKLYN KING  
= ETHEL MARGARET ALLEN BOWRA

Edwin Franklyn King, the third son of Mark William King and Frances his wife, was born on May 19th 1867. Educated privately, and at King's College School, London. He served for sixteen years in the London Rifle Brigade, and is an architect and surveyor in the City of London. He married on April 21st 1893, at St. Mary Bolton's, Kensington, Ethel Margaret Allen Bowra, daughter of Edward Bernard Bowra, who bore to him three sons and one daughter. She died at Grasmere on March 13th 1937, and was cremated. During the European War,

although past military age, Edwin Franklyn King served in France with the Red Cross. Enlisted in the French Army in July 1916, and was appointed a motor driver in Section Sanitaire Anglaise Num. 10, a convoy of motor ambulances driven by Englishmen, established in the Verdun Sector of the Front in February 1916. In June 1917 he became Commandant of the Section, and retired in the following December. He was mentioned for his services in Divisional Despatches in September 1916, receiving the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, and was mentioned in the despatches of the Army in August 1917, when the Palm Branch was added to his Croix de Guerre.

The children of Edwin Franklyn King and Ethel his wife, are :—

1. Ronald Mark Eton King, born March 25th 1894. Educated at Haileybury. Appointed 2nd Lieutenant 7th Middlesex Regiment, September 5th 1914. Promoted Lieutenant and Captain June 1st 1916. Transferred to Indian Army 9th Gurkhas August 12th 1917, with rank of Lieutenant, promoted Captain June 2nd 1919, and Major June 2nd 1933. Served at Gibraltar and in France and Flanders 1915-17, present with his battalion at the Battles of Aubers and Loos (Bois Grenier), and attached to the 56th Divisional Headquarters at the Battles of the Somme 1916, including the Battles of Albert (Gommecourt), Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy, and as Battalion Transport Officer at the Battles of Arras 1917, including the Battles of the First Scarpe, Arleux, and the Third Scarpe. Took part in the Third Afghan War 1919, including the Kurram Operations, and the Defence of Thal. Employed in the suppression of the Moplah Rising. Passed Staff College, Camberley, 1929. Mentioned in Despatches for





*From a photograph by Iris Studios, Oxford St.*

EDWIN FRANKLYN KING  
AND HIS TWO SONS.

*Facing p. 92.*





*From a photograph by P. R. S., Beaconsfield.*

MAJOR RONALD MARK ETON KING, O.B.E.  
9TH GURKHA RIFLES.



distinguished services rendered in the field in connection with the Loe-Agra Operations, North-West Frontier of India, during the period February 23rd to April 13th 1935, whilst serving as Brigade Major to the Nowshera Brigade, and appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division). Took part in the Mohmand Operations, August 18th to November 5th 1935. He was invested with the Order of the British Empire by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on July 15th 1936. Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1937 as Esquire to his cousin Colonel King. He is a member of the Junior Naval and Military Club. Married August 14th 1921, at Bombay, Kathleen Maude, daughter of Major Alfred Prendergast of Durban, Natal, late Natal Mounted Police, and has issue:—

- a.* Patricia Margaret Prendergast, born June 10th 1926, at Mussoorie, United Provinces, India.

- b.* Maureen Elizabeth Prendergast, born at Aldershot, March 9th 1928.

2. Geoffrey Arthur King, born July 5th 1897. Educated at Haileybury. Appointed 2nd Lieutenant, 7th Middlesex Regiment, September 9th 1914; promoted Lieutenant June 1st 1916; resigned his commission 1920. Served at Gibraltar and in France and Flanders 1915–18. Present at the Battles of Aubers and Loos (Bois Grenier), and at the Battles of the Somme 1916, including the Battles of Albert (Gommecourt), Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy. Present at the Battles of Langemarck 1917, and Cambrai, and as Brigade Intelligence Officer 167th

Infantry Brigade, present at the Battles of First Arras 1918, Albert, Scarpe, Canal du Nord, Cambrai, and the Sambre. He greatly distinguished himself in the Battle of Le Transloy on October 1st, and again on October 7th, and was awarded the Military Cross, the official announcement stating, 'For conspicuous gallantry in action. He established a post in advance of the front line, and held it for two nights until relieved. Later he took command of the front line, and maintained his position for thirty-six hours until relieved'. The Military Cross was presented to him by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace in December 1916. An actor by profession.

3. Norman Edward de la Hunt King, born January 16th 1901; died August 9th 1903, aged two years; buried at Kingston Vale.
4. Hermione Margaret Eton, born March 12th 1904; married July 1st 1933, Rowland Mellon at St. Alban's Church, Hindhead. Resides at Grasmere, Westmoreland.

### ALFRED JAMES KING = ADA EMMA COMBES

Alfred James King, the fourth son of Mark William King and Frances, his wife, was born on April 26th 1869, and educated at Highgate School. He became a farmer at Bishop's Cannings in Wiltshire, and there on April 21st 1896, married his wife Ada Emma, eldest daughter of James Combes, who bore to him three sons and one daughter. Her younger sister afterwards married his eldest brother, Henry Charles King. He died at Banff on July 19th 1918, aged forty-nine years, and was buried at Bishop's Cannings, and his widow, Ada Emma King, died May 3rd 1935, and was buried beside her husband.



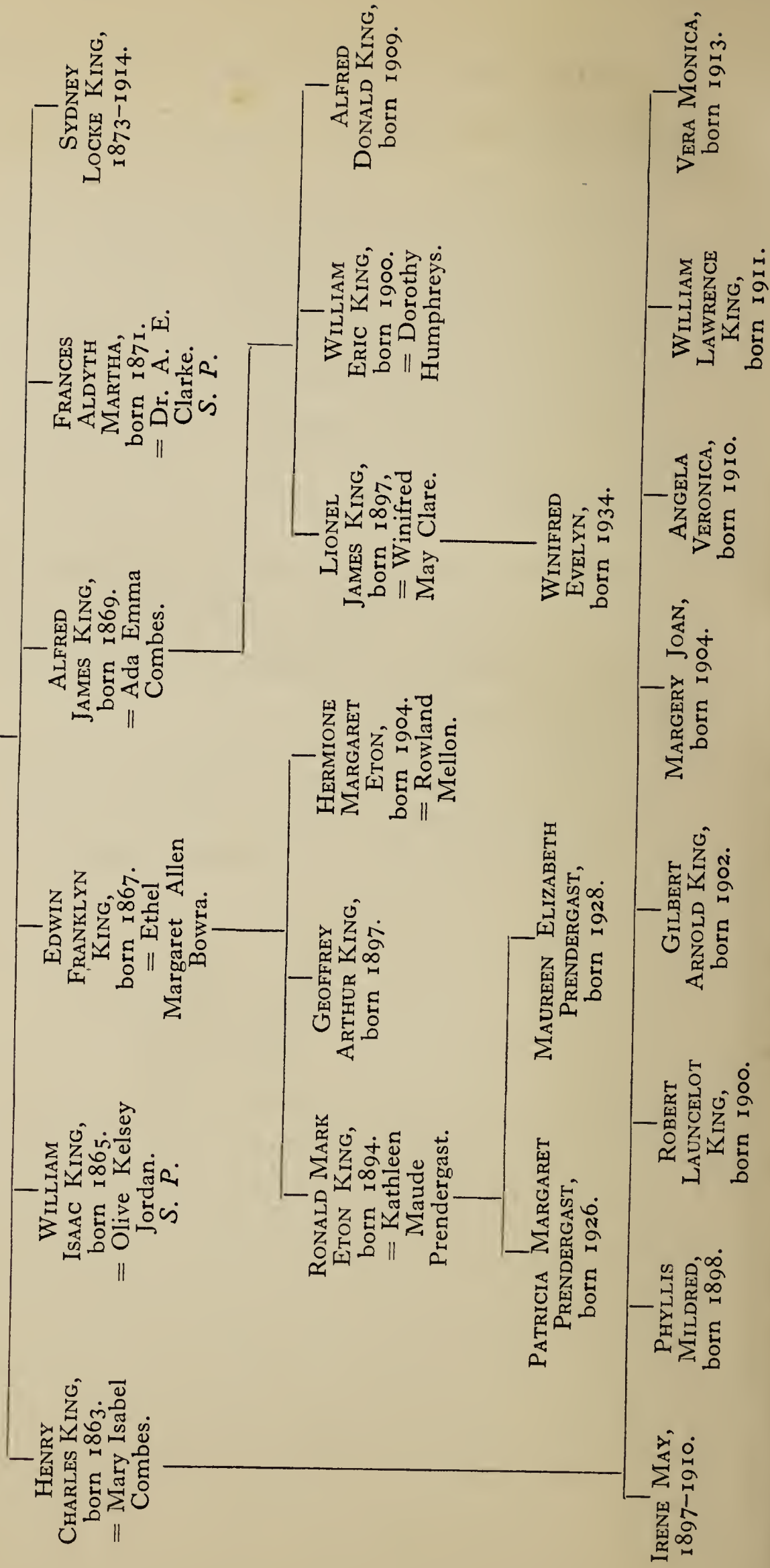
The children of Alfred James King and Ada, his wife, are :—

1. Lionel James King, born December 11th 1897. Educated at Shrewsbury. During the European War served in the ranks of the Royal Garrison Artillery in England. Married his wife, Winifred May Clare, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Quebec, on 13th October, 1933 and has one daughter Winifred Evelyn, born September 9th 1934. A mining engineer at the Hollinger Gold Mine, Timmins, Ontario, Canada.
2. William Eric King, born July 23rd 1900. Educated at Shrewsbury. Married June 9th 1937, Dorothy Elizabeth Louisa Humphreys of Greenham, Wiltshire. Resides at Newbury, Berkshire.
3. Hilda Marjorie, born April 10th 1903 ; died June 9th 1904 ; buried at Bishop's Cannings.
4. Alfred Donald King, born January 21st 1909. Educated at Shrewsbury. Living at Devizes.

PEDIGREE No. IV

THE DESCENDANTS OF MARK WILLIAM KING

MARK WILLIAM KING, = FRANCES EVANS,  
1834-1895. | 1837-1896.



## CHAPTER XIII

### THE KINGS OF HIGHGATE

#### 9TH GENERATION

#### EDWIN KING = SUSANNAH LOUISA JOHNSTON

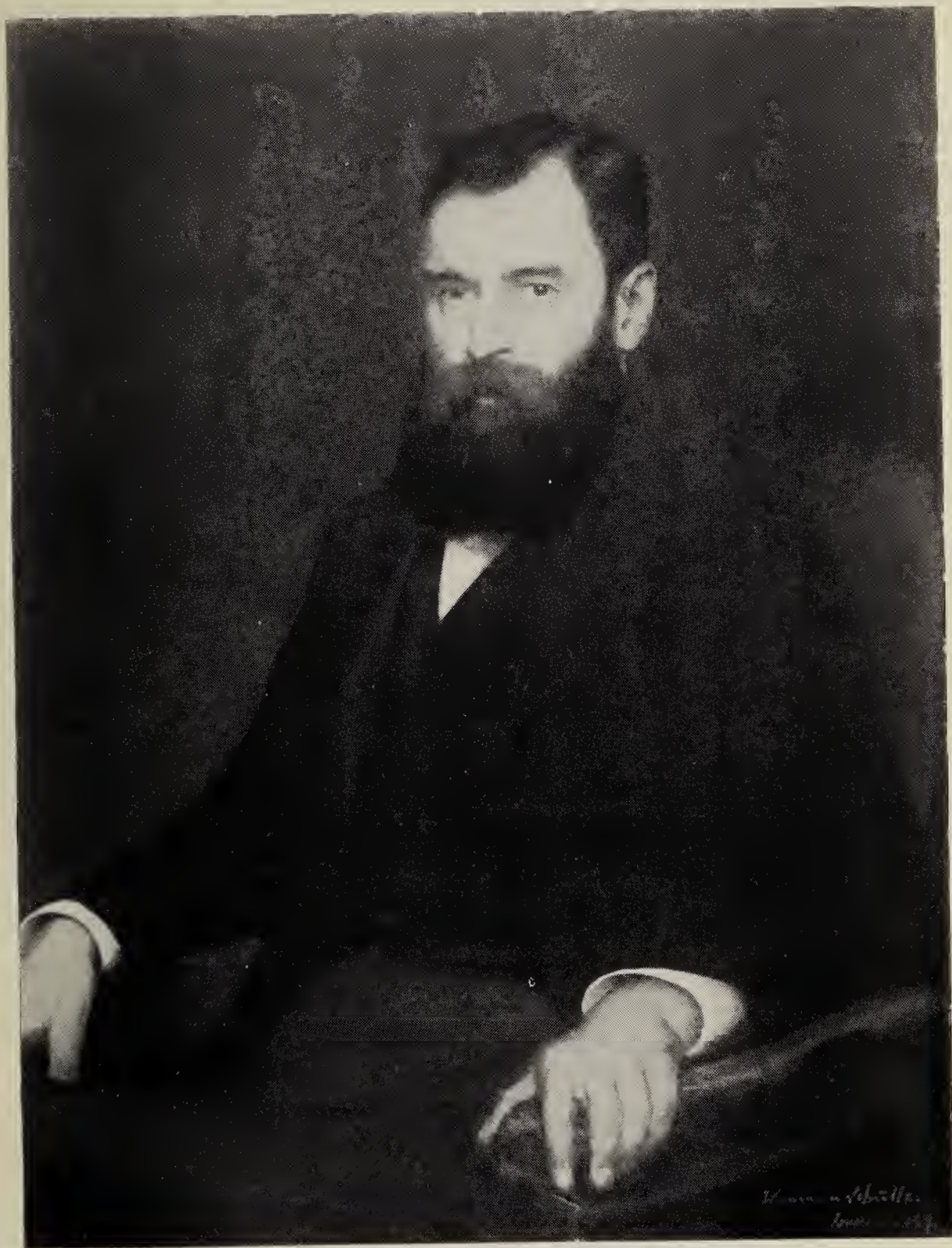
EDWIN KING, the second son of Isaac King and Martha, his first wife, was born in the City of London on December 3rd 1838. He was educated at the City of London School, and became a builder. On July 11th 1876, he married at Poplar Parish Church, Susannah Louisa Johnston, then twenty-three years of age, eldest daughter of James Johnston of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, and of Susannah his wife, the only daughter of a certain Richard O'Ferrall, of the family of O'Ferrall of County Longford, Ireland. James Johnston was the eldest son of John Johnston and Louisa Mary Blackbourne his wife, and the grandson of another John Johnston, who was born in Allyndale, and came to London from Scotland at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Johnstons claimed descent from the ancient Scottish family of that name, and the earliest generations in London cherished with pride the tradition brought with them from Scotland, that John Johnston was the rightful heir to a baronetcy, long in abeyance. This tradition, the genuineness of which there is no reason to doubt, refers to the baronetcy of Johnston of Elphinstone, a younger branch of the family of Johnston of that Ilk. The last known baronet was Sir James Johnston, who was still living in 1673, but met with evil days, was completely ruined, sank into poverty and obscurity, and of his end there is now no record. When in 1925 it was necessary for Colonel King to show that his mother's family had the



right to bear arms, he claimed descent from the family of Johnston of Elphinstone, and was granted by the Heralds' College a patent to quarter the ancient arms of Johnston, slightly differenced, namely, 'Sable a saltire coupé Argent in chief three cushions Or'.

Edwin King was perhaps the most capable business man that our family has yet produced, with a capacity for seeing clearly the lines on which London was developing, that amounted almost to genius. In his early days he followed closely the methods of his able cousin Charles Bryant, who was seven years his senior, and was already laying the foundations of the great fortune that he ultimately amassed. The two cousins were always deeply attached, continually assisting one another, and when Charles Bryant died in 1887, at the early age of fifty-six, his cousin Edwin became one of his trustees, taking over the complete management of his estate, and administering it with the same care and attention that he gave to his own, until his death eight years later. By his successful speculations in building, mostly in the Borough of Finsbury, Edwin King eventually built up a fortune of approximately £250,000, and of him it might be equally said, as of his cousin Charles Bryant, that everything he touched seemed to turn to gold. In his early days and during the first few years of his marriage, he lived in South Hackney, but in 1883 he moved out to Highgate, where his eldest brother Mark William King, had just settled, living first at 'Ingleholme', until in 1892 he purchased 'Elm Lodge', afterwards known as 'The Elms'. He had always been a delicate man, his health had by now become very fragile, and three years later, on March 31st 1895, he died at 'Elm Lodge' after a short illness, only fifty-six years of age.

Not so tall as most of his race, he had the aquiline features of his father, with keen alert eyes, and in later years a full dark beard. He was not merely a successful business man, but intellectual in his tastes, widely-read, with an unusual fund of general knowledge, and a keen interest in historical and antiquarian subjects—tastes which



*From a painting by Hermann Schültz.*

EDWIN KING OF HIGHGATE.

Born 1838. Died 1895.

*Facing p. 98.*





*From a painting by Hermann Schültz.*

SUSANNAH LOUISA KING, *née* JOHNSTON.

WIFE OF EDWIN KING.

Born 1853. Died 1921.



were inherited in varying degrees by his sons. Never a robust man, his lack of health and endurance debarred him from outdoor sports and the more energetic forms of exercise, but he loved his garden dearly, and was a very fine billiard player. In character firm and resolute, rarely changing from a decision once made, he was none the less kindly and sympathetic by nature, and one of the most generous of men. Like his father before him, no one in trouble or distress ever appealed to him in vain, and the extent of his charities was never realized until after his death, for most of his gifts were anonymous. He was one of the most generous supporters of the St. Michael's National Schools, of which he was for several years one of the managers. A devoted husband and father, his early death was a serious loss to his young children, more particularly to his sons, who were never to know what it was to have a father's hand to guide and direct them, and set them on the road of life.

His widow Susannah Louisa King found herself, at forty-two years of age, with nine children to bring up, the eldest of them only seventeen, and still at school. It was no easy task that lay before her, for in all things she had ever relied upon the judgment and opinions of her husband, and in this matter she never had anyone to whom she could turn for advice and counsel. She continued to live at 'Elm Lodge', the name of which she changed some years later to 'The Elms', but her income was never really sufficient for so large an establishment. Her husband's estate was managed for her, first by his eldest brother Mark William King, who died five months later, and then by his younger brother Alfred King. Under his careful control, the estate prospered and flourished exceedingly, and his nephews and nieces owed to their uncle a very deep debt of gratitude, more perhaps than they ever quite realized. Devoted to her children, and filled with ambition for their future, their welfare and happiness became the sole object of their mother's existence, and in their upbringing her mistakes were very few. In character she was curiously

typical of her mixed Scottish and Irish extraction. Her judgments were generally shrewd and sound, and her intuition truly remarkable, whilst in times of emergency she showed firmness of decision and resoluteness of character that sometimes came as a surprise to those who had not understood her. The Irish side of her nature came out in a tendency to take the line of least resistance in the minor affairs of life, and in money matters she was always inclined to carelessness. During the Great European War she displayed a Spartan sense of duty to the country that was a real inspiration to her sons, although she never quite got over the long-drawn-out anxiety of having all her four sons so long in the fighting line. Beautiful and very dignified, a good hostess and of great personal charm, she was dearly loved by her friends, and her dependents were always devoted to her. Kindly and sympathetic, generous and charitable, her heart always went out to those in need and trouble, she was ever ready to go to the assistance of those in distress, and for them her generosity knew no limits, and was exercised without the slightest consideration for herself. She died at 'The Elms' after a short illness on May 13th 1921, aged sixty-eight years, and was buried in the family grave at Highgate. As she lay dying her last words to her eldest son were, 'You have been a good son to me; I think you always tried to do your duty; I am satisfied with you'. There is an excellent portrait of her in existence, painted in 1888 by Hermann Schültz, a Norwegian artist, afterwards court painter at Berlin, who also painted her husband at the same time.

The children of Edwin King and Susannah Louisa, his wife, were :—

1. Edwin James King, born April 29th 1877. (See Chapter XIV.)
2. Leonard Reginald King, born June 2nd 1878. (See later.)
3. Beatrice Sarah, born August 15th 1879; died at Cobham on October 20th 1926, aged forty-seven years; and was buried at Highgate.

4. Kathleen, born April 9th 1881; married at St. Michael's, Highgate, on June 8th 1904, John Wheatley Morrison, eldest son of Samuel Allen Morrison of Tynemouth, Northumberland, by whom she had three sons and four daughters. In 1936 she was appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and was personally invested with the Order by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on May 25th 1937. Resides at Shotley Bridge, County Durham.
5. Stanley King, born March 19th 1882. (See later.)
6. Elsie, born May 26th 1883. Resides at Highgate.
7. Gladys, born September 8th 1884; married at St. Michael's, Highgate, on July 29th 1907, Rupert Gray, eldest son of the Rev. James Black Gray, D.D., Rector of Crick, Warwickshire, by whom she had two sons. Resides at Fleet.
8. Harold Keith King, born September 19th 1885. (See later.)
9. Dorothy, born May 12th 1888; married at All Saints, Nairobi, Kenya, on February 17th 1925, Brigadier-General Donald Munro Watt, C.I.E., D.S.O., late Gordon Highlanders and 2nd Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of Alexander Watt, of Gowanpark, Banff. Resides at Farnham.

#### 10TH GENERATION

#### COLONEL EDWIN JAMES KING

(See next chapter)

#### MAJOR LEONARD REGINALD KING

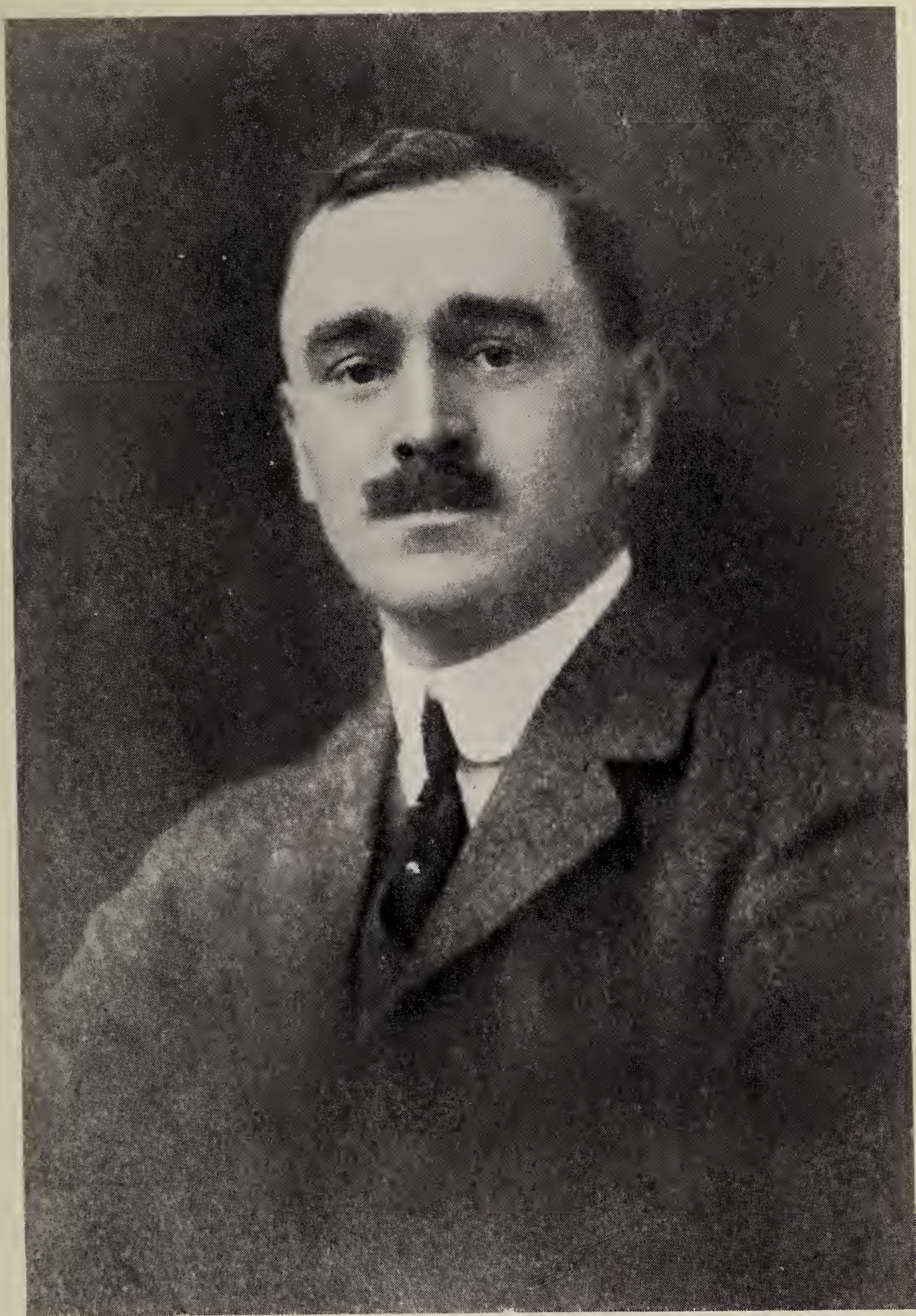
Leonard Reginald King, the second son of Edwin King and Susannah Louisa his wife, was born at South Hackney on June 2nd 1878. Educated at Cheltenham and New College, Oxford, he took his degree as Master of Arts,



with honours in history, and afterwards became a solicitor. He was a member of the Borough Council of St. Pancras from 1906 to 1912. Married at St. Michael's, Highgate, on August 20th 1914, Isabel English, eldest daughter of Thomas James English, of Lisburn, Northern Ireland, but they had no children. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1897, resigning the following year. Was re-appointed Second Lieutenant in 1901, promoted Lieutenant 1902, Captain 1903, and Major in 1913. Commanded the Representative Contingent of the 7th Middlesex at the Coronation Ceremonies of His Majesty King George V in 1911, receiving the Coronation Medal. Served as a Military Member of the Middlesex Territorial Army Association from 1913 to 1919. He was a member of the Junior Army and Navy Club.

During the European War he served at Gibraltar and in France and Flanders. Present with his battalion at the Battles of Aubers and Loos (Bois Grenier) in 1915, and in the autumn his services were recognized by his appointment to the command of the newly-raised 14th Welch Regiment. But the hardships of the winter in the trenches at Richebourg and Givenchy resulted in a breakdown in health, which compelled him to relinquish his command and to return to England. In the summer of 1916, at his own request, he was re-appointed second in command of the 7th Middlesex, and proceeded with his battalion in the autumn to the Valley of the Somme. He was present at the Battles of Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy. During the last engagement he was temporarily commanding his battalion, and on October 7th delivered a brilliant attack on the 84th Bavarian Regiment, driving it out of its positions near Les Boeufs with heavy losses, and capturing seventy-seven unwounded prisoners. It was the only portion of the front on which his division—the 56th—succeeded in making any advance. In recognition of his services on this occasion, he was mentioned in despatches 'for gallant and distinguished services in the





*From a photograph.*

MAJOR LEONARD REGINALD KING.

7TH MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

Born 1878. Died 1923.

*Facing p. 102.*





*From a photograph taken at Gibraltar.*

FAMILY GROUP OF OFFICERS IN THE GREAT WAR.

Lt. R. M. E. King. Lt. H. K. King. Lt. G. A. King.  
Major L. R. King. Lt.-Col. E. J. King. Capt. S. King.



field'. During the engagement he was severely injured by the burst of a high-explosive shell, but somehow managed to remain at duty. He had, however, been far more badly hurt than had at first been realized, and four days later completely collapsed. In 1917 he was invalided out of the service, with severe spinal injuries, and after lingering on for eight years, growing steadily worse, died in a nursing home on September 24th 1923, aged forty-five years. He was buried in the family grave at Highgate; his old battalion desired to pay the last honours due to his rank, but he had expressed a special desire that his funeral might be as quiet and simple as possible. In his will he left a sum of money to the Officer's Mess of the 7th Middlesex for the purchase of a piece of memorial plate. With this sum the officers purchased a handsome silver cigar box, which is always passed round after mess, that his name and his services to the battalion may never be forgotten. This cigar box bears upon it the following inscription:—

'Presented to the Officers of the 7th. Battalion Middlesex Regiment, in memory of Major Leonard Reginald King, who served in the Battalion from 1897-1917, and died on the 24th. September 1923. He commanded the Battalion on the 7th. Oct: 1916, in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges, when it gained great honour and renown, and when he sustained in the moment of victory those severe injuries, which ultimately caused his death'.

### MAJOR STANLEY KING

Stanley King, the third son of Edwin King and Susannah Louisa, his wife, was born at South Hackney on March 19th 1882. Educated at Highgate School and Clare College, Cambridge, he took his degree as Master of Arts, with honours in history, and was afterwards articled to the well-known accountants, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. He married at King's Chapel, Gibraltar, on January 27th 1915, Freda Forster Rosser, the only daughter of the late

David Rosser, of Neath, South Wales, but they had no children. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1902, promoted Lieutenant 1903, Captain 1907, and Major 1916, retiring in 1920. He received the Territorial Officer's Decoration in 1921.

During the European War he served at Gibraltar, in France and Flanders, and also in Germany. He proceeded with his battalion to France in March 1915, but was invalided to England early in April, returning to duty in July. He was present with his battalion at the Battles of Loos (Bois Grenier) and Albert (Gommecourt), the first of the Battles of the Somme 1916. In the Birthday Honours List of that year he was mentioned in despatches 'for gallant and distinguished services in the field'. He was again invalided to England at the beginning of September 1916, returning to duty two months' later, and on November 30th was badly wounded in the trenches. He was making an inspection of the famous Duck's Bill, when a German heavy trench mortar shell burst in it, killing or wounding most of the garrison. It exploded within a few feet of him, inflicting severe wounds in the left shoulder and hand, and smashing the shoulder blade; in all he was wounded in twelve places. The Duck's Bill was a fortified mine crater near Neuve Chapelle, connected by a communication trench with the front line, and only forty yards from the enemy. For a year he was employed in England on instructional duties, but in December 1917, returned to his battalion. He was not, however, completely recovered from his wounds, and was compelled to return to England three months later. After the Armistice he was posted to the 23rd Middlesex in November 1918, and served with that battalion in Belgium and Germany. In April 1919 he was transferred to the 13th Middlesex for service with the Clearing-up Force in France and Flanders, and in November 1919 was posted to the command of the 200th Labour Company—an appointment which he held until his demobilization in April 1920. He died in a nursing



home of peritonitis on October 27th 1921, and was buried with the military honours due to his rank, in the family grave at Highgate. He had been for many years a member of the Junior Army and Navy Club. His widow married again on June 3rd 1924, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a certain John Marshall Scott of Rathmines, Dublin, and so ceased to belong to our family.

### CAPTAIN HAROLD KEITH KING

Harold Keith King, the fourth son of Edwin King and Susannah Louisa, his wife, was born at Highgate on September 19th 1885, and resided for some years in British Columbia, where he purchased a fruit farm in the Kettle Valley. He married at Holy Trinity, Paddington, on March 30th 1911, Enid Mews, the second daughter and co-heiress of John Mews, of Westbourne Terrace, Barrister-at-Law, but they had no children. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1905, promoted Lieutenant 1906, and Captain 1916, retiring in 1919.

During the European War he served at Gibraltar, and in France and Flanders. He proceeded with his battalion to France in March 1915, but was invalided to England the following month with asthma. For a year he served with the Depot Battalion, returning to the front in April 1916, but was again invalided a month later. On July 1st 1917 he rejoined once more, and was appointed Transport Officer to his battalion, a post which he held for just over a year. He was present at the Battles of Langemarck and Cambrai in 1917, and at the First Battle of Arras in 1918. On the evening of April 12th 1918, whilst passing through Beaurains bringing up the rations, the enemy began to shell the road, and he was wounded in the abdomen by the burst of a high explosive shell, but managed to return to duty three weeks later. On July 20th 1918 he was transferred to the VIII Corps, as Town Major of

Neuville St. Vaast, and on the occupation of Douai was appointed Assistant Town Commandant. He returned to England to be demobilized in February 1919.

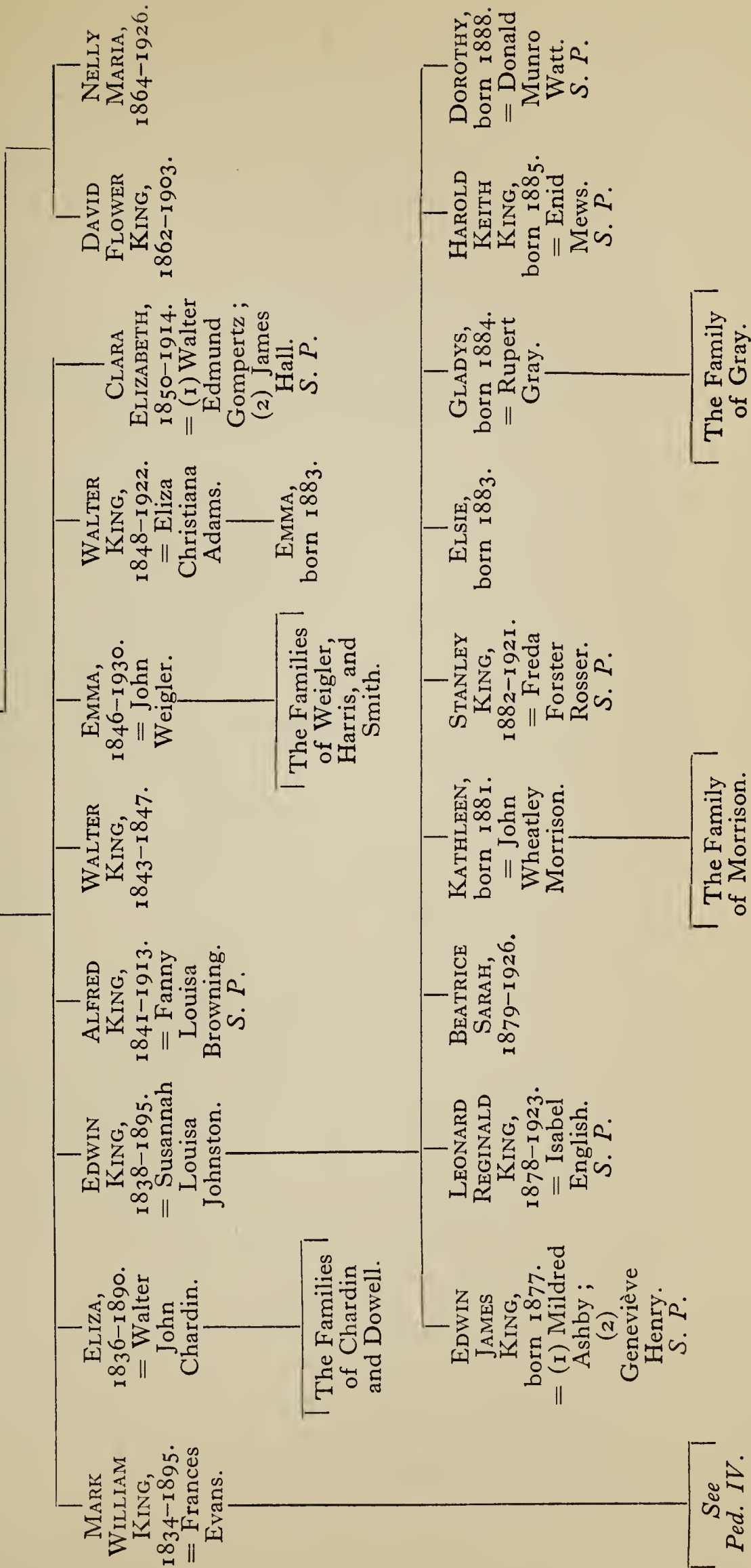
After the war he returned for a short time to his fruit farm in British Columbia, but in 1921 sold it to his brother-in-law, Major Rupert Gray, and finally settled down in England at Aston End, near Stevenage. For some years he was a member of the Junior Naval and Military Club, and in 1937 was elected a member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club.



# PEDIGREE No. V

## THE YOUNGER DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC KING

MARTHA HART, = ISAAC KING, = HARRIETT SANDERSON,  
1813-1852. 1809-1876. 1821-1906.



CHAPTER XIV  
COLONEL EDWIN JAMES KING :  
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

EDWIN JAMES KING, the eldest son of Edwin King and Susannah Louisa his wife, was born at South Hackney on April 29th 1877, and was educated at Cheltenham College and Christ Church, Oxford, taking his degree as a Master of Arts. In 1896, after serving for a year in the ranks of the Artists' Rifle Volunteers, he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in what is now the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, and in the following year was promoted Lieutenant. In the autumn of 1899 the South African War broke out, and in January he proceeded to Cape Town, where he was attached to the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles, a Cape Town regiment.

He took part in the operations south of Orange River from February to May 1900, and in the operations north of that river from May to July, his regiment forming part of General Sir Charles Warren's Griqualand West Field Force, detached from the main army to suppress the rebels in Griqualand West and Bechuanaland. On May 30th he received his baptism of fire at Faber's Put, where his column was badly surprised at daybreak by a Boer Commando under Commandant De Villiers, only beaten off with great difficulty after heavy losses. After the capture of the town of Campbell and the surrender of De Villier's Commando at Blikfontein on June 22nd, he was transferred to the Imperial Yeomanry Scouts, a corps of Colonial Mounted Rifles, with a body of Zulus and Basutos attached for intelligence duties.



In July his troop joined Major-General The Earl of Erroll's Mounted Brigade at Mafeking, forming part of General Sir Frederick Carrington's Rhodesia Field Force, which had come south from Buluwayo. He took part in the operations west of Pretoria from July to November, including the attempts to relieve Colonel Hore's garrison, blockaded at Eland's River. He was present at the action at Elands' River on August 5th, where his column was defeated by General Delarey, and driven back to Mafeking. He took part in the fighting around Zeerust and Ottoshoep from August to October, and on September 5th was attached to the staff of Major-General the Earl of Erroll. At the end of the year he returned to England to resume his studies at Oxford. For his services in South Africa he received the War Medal and three clasps.

On coming down from Oxford he was entered as a member of Lincoln's Inn, and read for the Bar, but was never actually called. He was married at Scarborough Parish Church on March 1st 1905, by the Bishop of Hull, to his second cousin Mildred, the youngest daughter of Richard Ashby and Rosina (born King) his wife, and went to live in Bishop's Avenue, East Finchley; there were no children of this marriage. At the London County Council Election of 1906 he stood for North St. Pancras as a Municipal Reformer, but failed to get elected. From 1906 to 1909 he was a manager of the North St. Pancras Group of London County Council Schools, receiving the thanks of the L.C.C. Education Committee on his resignation.

He had been promoted Captain in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1901, and was appointed Instructor of Musketry in 1906; in the following year he was promoted Lieut.-Colonel and appointed to the command of the battalion. In 1908 he was appointed a Military Member of the County of Middlesex Territorial Army Association, and was elected Chairman of its Recruiting Committee. In that same year he was in attendance at Windsor, when His Majesty King Edward VII presented new colours to his battalion, and in 1911 his battalion was classified as

an Imperial Service battalion, the first in the Territorial Army to accept this liability. At the Coronation Ceremonies of His Majesty King George V in 1911, he was selected to command the Composite Battalion furnished by the Eastern Command, comprising representative contingents from twenty-nine different battalions, and afterwards received the Coronation Medal.

He had been for many years Vice-President of the North St. Pancras Branch of the League of Mercy, and in 1913, in recognition of his services, the Order of Mercy was conferred upon him. He had also been for some years Chairman of the County of Middlesex Voluntary Aid Organization, and in 1915 in recognition of his services in that capacity he was appointed a Knight of Grace of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. In 1913 he petitioned the Earl Marshal for a warrant to the Kings of Arms, directing them to grant such Armorial Ensigns as might be proper to be borne and used by him, and the other descendants of his father Edwin King. In that same year he took over the administration of the family estate on the death of his uncle Alfred King, a duty that he has carried out ever since. In 1914, just before the outbreak of the Great War, he was adopted as the Liberal Parliamentary candidate for the Faversham Division of Kent.

On the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, he mobilized the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, and on August 5th assumed command of No. 2 Sub-Section, Sheerness Section, Eastern Coast Defences, at the mouth of the Thames, with headquarters at Fort Grain, until relieved on August 9th, when he took his battalion to Sittingbourne for a period of intensive training. On September 4th he proceeded with his battalion to Gibraltar, where he remained in garrison until February 8th 1915, when he left for England to refit. On March 12th he sailed with his battalion for Havre, and on the 15th joined the 23rd Brigade of the 8th Division at La Gorgue. Throughout 1915 he was engaged in holding a sector of the trench line at different points





*From a painting by E. Caruana Dingli.*

MILDRED KING, *née* ASHBY.  
WIFE OF COLONEL EDWIN JAMES KING.  
Born 1878. Died 1935.

*Facing p 110.*





*From a design by the College of Arms.*

HERALDIC BOOK PLATE.



between Armentières and Neuve Chapelle. He commanded his battalion at the Battle of Aubers on May 9th, when the 1st Army tried to drive back the Crown Prince of Bavaria's Army, then covering Lille. He was commanding it during the demonstration at Fauquissart in connection with the Second Action of Givenchy on June 15th, and in the Battle of Loos on September 25th, when the 8th Division delivered a subsidiary attack, known as the Action of Bois Grenier. He was mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir John French, 'for gallant and distinguished services in the field', and his name appeared in the New Year Honours List of 1916.

On February 8th he left the 8th Division, and was transferred with his battalion to the 167th Brigade of the 56th Division, and was engaged during the spring in holding the trench line covering Hébuterne, south of Arras. On May 26th and 27th he was engaged in the successful night operations in front of Gommecourt, which advanced the British line 500 yards nearer to the German positions, and was thanked personally for his services in those operations by General Sir Thomas Snow, commanding the VII Corps. On July 1st he commanded his battalion in the Battle of Albert, the first of the great Battles of the Somme, when the 56th Division was engaged in the disastrous subsidiary action known as the Attack on the Gommecourt Salient. In the Birthday Honours List of 1916 he was mentioned in despatches for the second time by General Sir Douglas Haig, 'for gallant and distinguished services in the field', and in recognition of his services was appointed a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.<sup>1</sup>

His battalion was withdrawn from the line on August 19th, and on the 26th he was selected to give a demonstration at Gapennes before General Sir Douglas Haig and the British Staff, of the co-operation of Infantry and Tanks, the first of which had just arrived in France. On September 3rd

<sup>1</sup> His arms are to be seen displayed on one of the stalls in the Chapel of St. Michael and St. George in St. Paul's Cathedral.

he gave the same demonstration before Marshal Joffre and the French Staff. On September 4th he left Gapennes for the Valley of the Somme, and on the 9th was commanding his battalion in the Battle of Ginchy. His battalion was again engaged in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on September 15th, delivering two assaults on the German positions in Bouleaux Wood, covering Combles, from which it was beaten back with a loss of 14 officers and over 300 other ranks. After receiving reinforcements he was once more in action on September 25th in the Battle of Morval. A serious illness followed, and whilst on leave he was invested with the Order of St. Michael and St. George by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on October 21st. He rejoined his battalion at the beginning of December in the trenches covering Laventie, and during January and February, 1917, was temporarily commanding the 167th Infantry Brigade. For his services he was mentioned in despatches for the third time by General Sir Douglas Haig, 'for gallant and distinguished services in the field', and his name appeared in the New Year Honours List for 1917.

On March 5th, 1917, he marched south with his battalion for the Battles of Arras, and on April 9th, was engaged in the First Battle of the Scarpe, where on the outskirts of the village of Neuville Vitasse he gained his greatest success in the war. During the battle, fighting continuously for two days and nights, in snow and rain and bitter cold, he delivered no fewer than six attacks in forty-eight hours, completely destroying the 31st Regiment, capturing 5 officers and 245 other ranks with 4 machine-guns and 3 trench mortars, and then attacking the 86th Regiment, from which he took a further 118 prisoners.<sup>1</sup> He was

<sup>1</sup> In memory of his services in this engagement, authority was afterward granted to the descendants of Isaac King to bear as a Device or badge upon their Standards or otherwise, according to the Laws of Arms, "An Eagle's leg *a la quisse* reversed bendwise Sable charged with a Bezant, thereon the numerals 31 of the first": symbolizing the clipping of the claws of the German eagle in the destruction of the 31st Regiment.



commanding his battalion in the Battle of Arleux on April 28th, and in the Third Battle of the Scarpe on May 3rd, when it was beaten back with very heavy losses in a desperate attack on the German positions near Monchy-le-Preux.

The Battles of Arras were followed by a second long and severe illness, and he was recommended for the command of an Infantry Training Brigade in England. But he preferred serving at the front, and in October 1917, rejoined his battalion near Bapaume, only to break down again in health. At the New Year he was awarded the Territorial Officer's Decoration, in recognition of twenty years' service as an officer of the Territorial Army.

In February 1918, he was promoted from Lieut.-Colonel to Colonel, and posted to the Staff of the XV Corps, as Commandant of Labour, graded as an Assistant-Adjutant-General. He was present at the Battles of the Lys, when the Germans tried to break through to the Channel Ports, including the Battle of Estaires on April 9th, and the subsequent retreat, and also at the Battle of Hazebrouck on April 12th, and the defence of the Nieppe Forest. In the autumn he took part in the operations known as the Advance to Victory, which terminated in the Armistice of November 11th 1918. In March 1919, he succeeded General Sir Bryan Mahon as Commandant of Lille, and on completion of his work there was appointed Commander of the Ypres Sub-Area. By October 1919, his work at Ypres was finished, and returning to England he was demobilized in April 1920. Of his services in command of the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, General Sir Ivor Maxse wrote in his Foreword to the history of that battalion, 'He commanded it with success in the greatest of all wars, and throughout some of the bloodiest fighting in France'.

Immediately after the war came the General Election of 1919. He had been the Liberal Parliamentary candidate for the Faversham Division of Kent since 1914, and when

the Labour Party suddenly determined to run a candidate, rendering it a certainty that the Liberal would be defeated by a large majority, he declined to contest the constituency, and exhausted by the war, decided to abandon the idea of a Parliamentary career. In 1920 he purchased 'The Old House' at East Finchley, where he found great pleasure in adapting and altering the house to his own taste, and in laying-out the garden. He has resided there ever since.

In 1921 he began to interest himself actively in the work of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in which he had been a Knight of Grace since 1915, more particularly in its history and antiquities, and was appointed a representative member of its Chapter-General. In 1924 he published his first work, *The Knights of St. John in England*, and in that year was appointed by the Grand Prior H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, one of the Executive Officers of the Order, with the title of Librarian.<sup>1</sup> When the new Royal Charter was granted in 1926, the task of drafting the attached schedule of statutes was entrusted to the Librarian in collaboration with the Chancellor, Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston. He was promoted Knight of Justice in 1926, and in that year took part in the Pilgrimage of the Knights of St. John to the Holy Land, Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta, as one of the staff of the Sub-Prior, Major-General the Earl of Scarborough, afterwards writing the Official History of the Pilgrimage.

In 1931 he took part in all the Centenary Celebrations of the Order as one of the staff of H.R.H. the Grand Prior, and in that year brought out his most important work, *The Knights Hospitallers in the Holy Land*, intended to be the first of three volumes, bringing the history of the Knights of St. John down to the present time. In 1932 he published his *Seals of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem*,

<sup>1</sup> His arms are to be seen displayed upon the walls of the Library at St. John's Gate, and also in one of the stained glass windows in the Chapter Hall.



and in 1933 his *Rule Statutes and Customs of the Hospitallers*, 1099-1310. In 1934 he brought out the *Official History of the British Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem*,<sup>1</sup> and in the following year was again engaged in collaboration with the Chancellor in drafting the schedule of Statutes for the Royal Charter of 1936. He was invited by His Majesty the King, as one of the representatives of the Order of St. John, to the Thanksgiving Service in Commemoration of the Silver Jubilee in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1935, and in that year was decorated with the medal 'for conspicuous services to the Order of St. John'.

On the re-organization of the Territorial Army in 1920, he had resumed his work as a Military Member of the County of Middlesex Territorial Army Association, and in 1925 was elected its Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of its Finance Committee—appointments which he held until he was elected Chairman of the Association in 1936, in succession to Sir Cecil De Salis, K.C.B. In 1921 he was called up for service with the Defence Force, organized to deal with the threatened General Strike, and was ordered to hold himself in readiness for an administrative appointment, but the expected General Strike was postponed. In 1925 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of his old battalion, the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, in succession to Colonel Sir Henry Bowles, Bt., and in 1927 published his *History of the Seventh Middlesex*. The long threatened General Strike took place in 1926, and he raised and commanded a company of the Civil Constabulary Reserve, from the veterans of the Great War, but before he had taken over his Storm Centre at the Agricultural Hall the

<sup>1</sup> He also published a series of historical pamphlets relating to the Order of St. John, namely: In 1930, *A Letter from Brother Hugh Middleton*, Knight of the Order of St. John and Turcopolier of Rhodes, to his agent in England, written about 1448, with introduction and notes; in 1932, *The Early Statutes of the Knights Hospitallers*; in 1933, *The Thirteenth Century Statutes of the Knights Hospitallers*; in 1935, *Six Documents Relating to Queen Mary's Restoration of the Grand Priories of England and Ireland*.

General Strike had collapsed. In 1930 he founded the Middlesex Cadet Association to prevent the Cadets of the County from disappearing, when the Labour Government deprived them of official recognition, and remained its Chairman until his resignation in 1937, owing to his appointment to be Chairman of the Middlesex Territorial Association. In 1935 he was summoned to the Staff College Conference for consultation regarding the re-organization of the Territorial Army. In the same year he founded the London (City and County) and Middlesex Cadet Committee, and was elected its Vice-Chairman. He was appointed Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King in 1931, received the Jubilee Medal in 1935, and in 1936 marched in the funeral procession of His Majesty King George V from Westminster to Paddington. He was continued in his appointment as Aide-de-Camp by their Majesties King Edward VIII and King George VI, and at the Coronation of the latter monarch he was present in Westminster Abbey, and rode in the Royal Procession in attendance on His Majesty, receiving the Coronation Medal.

In recognition of his services within the County of Middlesex, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1927, and a Justice of the Peace in the following year. He was appointed High Sheriff of Middlesex by His Majesty the King on February 21st 1935. During his year of office he dealt firmly with the claims of the twelve Mayors of the County, led by the Mayor of Hornsey, to take the precedence within their respective boroughs before their High Sheriff. When they declined to accept the ruling of Garter Principal King of Arms, he took the matter before His Majesty's Privy Council, which requested the Home Office to issue the necessary instructions. By his action he rendered it impossible for such preposterous claims to be made in the future. In celebration of their Majesties' Silver Jubilee he organized a reception by the County at the Duke of York's School of the Veterans of the Great War, who had served in the Middlesex Regiment. He signed the Loyal



Addresses from the inhabitants of Middlesex to their Majesties the King and Queen on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, and again on the occasion of the marriage of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester. In his capacity as returning officer for the County, he made the necessary arrangements for the General Election of 1935. On January 22nd 1936, accompanied by the trumpeters of the Royal Horse Guards, and supported by the leading gentlemen of the County, he duly proclaimed and published from the Middlesex Guildhall at Westminster the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Edward VIII, with the traditional solemnities and ceremonies, and a month later, on March 10th, his tenure of office as High Sheriff expired.

Always deeply interested in historical and antiquarian research, and a collector of ancient and medieval coins, in 1924 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and also a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, and in 1931 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. From 1931 to 1936 he was President of the Hornsey Central Hospital. In 1928 he was elected Chairman of the Junior Army and Navy Club, of which he had been a member from its formation, and in 1927 he was elected a member of The Athenæum.

In 1936 he joined the Royal Motor Yacht Club.

In the autumn of 1935 he lost his wife Mildred, to whom he was very deeply attached. Her unceasing kindness devotion and sympathy, and her keen interest in all that her husband did, had been the inspiration of his life. During the Great War she found relief for her constant anxiety by organizing a supply of comforts for the men of her husband's battalion fighting at the front, and by looking after their wives and families at home, and at a time when boots were almost unprocurable she sent out a complete supply of boots for his battalion. Besides all this, she did much work for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and as the local President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. After the war she became

the first President of the Women's Section of the Finchley Branch of the British Legion, and was for nearly thirty years a member of the League of Mercy.

In her husband's literary work she was always of the greatest possible assistance to him, and he never permitted anything to be printed until it had been carefully read and checked by her; upon her advice and criticism he was always very dependent. His most important work, *The Knights Hospitallers in the Holy Land*, was dedicated to her in the following words, 'To my dear wife, whose constant interest and encouragement have so greatly assisted me in this work'. In 1925 she was appointed a Dame of Grace of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in recognition of the assistance that she had rendered to her husband in his work for that Order. In 1926 she accompanied her husband in the Pilgrimage of the Knights of St. John to the Holy Land, Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta. In 1935 she was invited by His Majesty the King, as one of the representatives of the Order of St. John, to the Thanksgiving Service in Commemoration of the Silver Jubilee in St. Paul's Cathedral.

In the latter half of her life her health was never good, and she became very frail, although in her younger days she had been athletic, and a fine horsewoman. For many years she endured much pain and suffering with the utmost patience and courage. In the autumn of 1933 she underwent a severe operation; for a time she rallied, and then very slowly and gradually faded away, dying suddenly at 'The Old House' on October 20th 1935, in the fifty-eighth year of her age. Her last words to her husband were, 'You are always so kind to me, dear'. She was buried in the family grave at Highgate, and her name is also recorded on that of her own family at Scarborough.

In her memory her husband presented to the Order of St. John his collection of the coins of the Crusaders, numbering 754 pieces, a collection which he had taken fifteen years to make, and probably the finest collection of these coins in existence. It is displayed in the Museum of the Order



of St. John at St. John's Gate, with an appropriate memorial tablet affixed. He presented at the same time a catalogue *raisonné* of the collection in 268 pages, written and compiled by himself, handsomely bound in vellum, with the arms of his wife on the cover. A tablet was also erected to her memory in the Memorial Chapel of the Knights of St. John in their Priory Church at Clerkenwell. There is a very fine memorial to her, from a design by E. R. Barrow, in Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley. This memorial was dedicated on June 28th 1936 by the Very Reverend the Dean of Bocking (Dean Rogers, O.B.E.), Officiating Chaplain to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. In *The Times* of October 26th a sympathetic and appreciative Obituary was published. She was a very kind and sweet woman, always most generous and charitable, a devoted daughter and wife, ever inspired in all her actions by a simple and sincere Christian piety; she was the personification of goodness, and by those who really knew her she was very dearly loved. There is a very good portrait of her in existence, painted in 1927 by the Chevalier Edward Caruana Dingli, Director of the Maltese Government School of Art, who painted the portraits of His Majesty King George V and of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught at St. John's Gate. The same artist painted her husband's portrait the following year.

Colonel King was married for the second time at St. George's, Hanover Square, on February 3rd 1937, by the Rev. H. C. Montgomery-Campbell, M.C., Chaplain of the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, to Geneviève Ghislaine Marthe Henry, the only daughter of Alfred Henry, of Tilques, in the Pas-de-Calais, and of his wife, Henriette Geneviève du Broeucq, who died in 1897, a daughter and co-heiress of Adolphe du Broeucq, belonging to the lesser nobility of St. Omer. The family of Henry is of Norman origin, and were brewers by occupation; they migrated to Versailles in the days of the French Revolution. Remy Henry (1794-1836) the grandfather of Alfred Henry, served in the Grand Army during the campaign in Russia in 1812,

and afterwards settled in St. Omer, where he married a certain Monique Delphine d'Outremer de la Louche, belonging to a noble family of that town. Their second son, Felix Henry (1818-1902), married Rosalie Bouchie (1832-1916), a daughter of Louis Bouchie of Cassell, by Sophie Lefevre his wife, whose mother belonged to the Scottish family of Finlayson, and Alfred Henry of Tilques, was their second son. Mrs. Geneviève King, owing to her husband's position as Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King, was invited to be present in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.





*From a photograph by Blanpied, Nice.*

GENEVIÈVE GHISLAINE MARTHE KING, *née* HENRY.

SECOND WIFE OF COLONEL EDWIN JAMES KING.

*Facing p. 120.*





*From a photograph by Maull & Co.*

DAVID KING OF NORWOOD.

Member of the Common Council of the City of London.  
Born 1812. Died 1878.



## CHAPTER XV

### DAVID KING AND HIS DESCENDANTS

#### 8TH GENERATION

#### DAVID KING = ELIZABETH GENT

**D**AVID KING, the third son of William King and Martha his wife, was born at Leigh-upon-Mendip, on February 9th 1812. Like his two brothers he was apprenticed to his uncle Mark King, at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, and on his death in 1830 went up to London with them and settled there. On August 21st 1838 he married Elizabeth Gent, then twenty-six years of age, at St. Pancras Parish Church. She was the daughter of a certain Richard Gent, who carried on the business of a tailor in London, and she bore to her husband five sons and three daughters.

Like his two elder brothers, David King became a builder. With the same prudent thrifty temperament, and sound judgment of his brother Abraham, he possessed greater ability, and was quicker to see his opportunities. He built up a most successful business, and during the middle years of his life, achieved a high degree of prosperity. But in his later years he allowed himself to become involved in certain unwise building speculations of his sons, and whilst he escaped complete ruin, he found himself reduced to a degree of comparative poverty in his old age. He was a very ambitious man, and possessed great personal dignity. Those who knew him say that he was always popular and very highly respected in the City. He became a Freeman of the City of London, and in 1858 a Member of the City Council for the Ward of Portsoken, a position

which he held down to 1868, when his failure in business caused his retirement. His services had been so much appreciated, that a presentation of plate was made to him. But his later misfortunes in business, and above all the crushing blow to his civic ambitions, which had played so great a part in his life, brought on a premature old age. He never recovered from his disappointment, but became very senile, and died on May 11th 1878, at the age of sixty-six years. He was buried in the City of London Cemetery at Ilford.

In character David King resembled his brother Abraham, rather than Isaac, although not devoid of the intellectual interests of the latter. He had the same strong religious views as his elder brother, and the same love for his native county of Somerset; like him he never lost touch with the friends of his boyhood at Leigh-upon-Mendip. During most of his life he had resided at Mitre Street in the City, but his last years were spent at Upper Norwood. His widow Elizabeth continued to live there for the remainder of her life. She died on March 19th 1886, aged seventy-four years, and was buried by the side of her husband at Ilford.

The children of David King and Elizabeth, his wife, were :—

1. William Richard King, born September 30th 1839.  
(See later.)
2. Franklyn Sydney King, born October 15th 1841.  
A builder in the City of London. For a time was very successful, but was unfortunate in later life. Married at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on February 3rd 1863, his cousin Elizabeth Ann King, by whom he had one daughter Eleanor Rosina, born November 10th 1863. He resided at Norwood, and died there May 13th 1892, aged fifty years. He was buried in Queen's Road Cemetery, Croydon. His widow Elizabeth Ann King died on November 20th 1910, aged seventy-one years, and was buried by the side of her husband at Croydon.



3. Augustus Cornelius King, born October 20th 1843. (See later.)
4. Martha Hannah Ann, born October 9th 1846; married at St. Botolph, Aldgate, on April 9th 1867, John Thomas Ashby, by whom she had two sons and two daughters. Died January 21st 1896, aged forty-nine years, and was buried at Richmond. From her are descended the Ashbys of Kew, and the Mellors. (See p. 166.)
5. David King, born May 25th 1849, by occupation a builder; died unmarried June 11th 1891, aged forty-two years, and was buried at Brookwood.
6. Elizabeth Amelia, born August 6th 1850; died November 14th 1871, aged twenty-one years, and was buried at Ilford.
7. Charles Arthur King, born September 24th 1853; by occupation a builder; never married; resided at Palmer's Green. Died April 1931, and was buried at Edmonton.
8. Ellen, born October 31st 1856; married at St. Catherine Cree in the City on October 30th 1875, John Hughes Samuel, son of the Rev. John Samuel, Rector of Heythrop. A few years after they went out to Canada, where she died childless some time before 1921.

#### 9TH GENERATION

WILLIAM RICHARD KING  
= ANN CHRISTIE

William Richard King, the eldest son of David King and Elizabeth his wife, was born on September 30th 1839. Like his father he became a builder, and lived for many years at Ilford. In 1865 he married Ann, the daughter of John Christopher Christie, of London, who bore to her

husband three sons and two daughters, and he died on January 18th 1909, aged sixty-nine years. He was buried in the family grave at Ilford. His widow Ann King died June 15th 1927, and was buried beside her husband.

The children of William Richard King and Ann his wife, were :—

1. William David Christie King, born April 2nd 1866.  
Educated at Christ's Hospital. Became a builder, and lives at Welwyn Heath. Married Margaret, daughter of George Tucker of London : has no children.
2. Isabel Christie, born November 5th 1867. Twice married : firstly, August 26th 1896, John Nevill Stephings, a timber merchant of London, who died April 27th 1912 ; secondly, in September 1914, Ernest Stuckey, commercial traveller, of Bath. Resided at Bath : she died July 28th 1928, and her husband November 11th 1931. They had no children.
3. Frank Christie King, born December 3rd 1869.  
Rating and Valuation Officer of the Borough of Ilford : resides at 7 Courtland Avenue, Ilford. Married February 25th 1908, Beatrice, daughter of Daniel Radford of Topsham, Devon. They had issue :—
  - a. Edith Christie, born November 25th 1910 ; married August 15th 1936, at Great Ilford Parish Church, Stanley Ashley Tisshaw, a schoolmaster, of Coulsdon, Surrey, son of Herbert Tisshaw of Ilford.,
  - b. Andrew Frank King, born January 10th 1912 ; unmarried ; farming in Canada.
  - c. Joyce Christie ; born September 17th 1913.
4. John Christie King, born October 11th 1871 ; married August 17th 1907, Louisa Mary, daughter of William Richard Tweed of London.



He was by occupation a clerk, and resided at De Vere Gardens, Ilford. Died November 20th 1922, and was cremated at the City of London Cemetery, Ilford, leaving one son, Jack William Richard King, born June 5th 1908; educated at the City of London School; a commercial traveller, is unmarried; lives in Calcutta.

5. Annie Christie, born August 5th 1878; married September 4th 1902, Charles Frank Leigh Wyatt, a Land Agent, and resides at Crossways, Fyfield, Abingdon; has two sons. (See page 167.)

AUGUSTUS CORNELIUS KING  
= HELEN KILBY

Augustus Cornelius King, third son of David King and Elizabeth, his wife, was born on October 20th 1843, and like his father and brothers, became a builder. On September 1st 1868 he married Helen, daughter of James Kilby, born March 7th 1845, who bore to her husband two sons and two daughters. From 1873 to 1877 he was living in Chicago, where his two cousins, Walter King and Emma, the wife of John Weigler, were also living. He afterwards returned to London, and died at Hackney on December 10th 1918, aged seventy-five years, and was buried at Manor Park. His widow Helen King resided at Twickenham, and died June 1st 1929; she was buried beside her husband at Manor Park.

The children of Augustus Cornelius King and Helen his wife, were:—

1. Elizabeth Marion, born July 10th 1869; married August 26th 1905, Ernest Arthur Netterville Lewis (born October 3rd 1872), by whom she had one son and one daughter. She died March 2nd 1935, and was buried at Twickenham. (See page 168.)

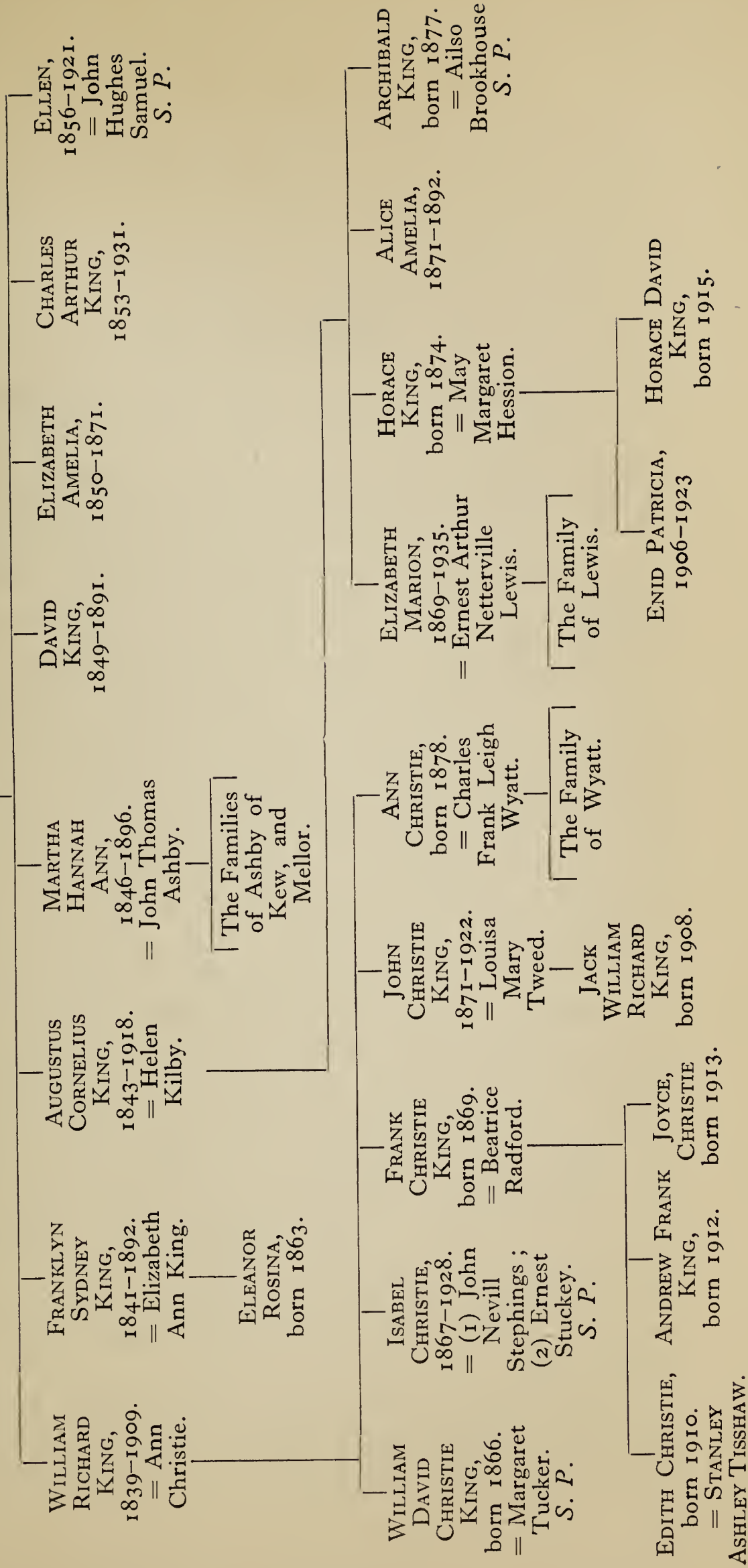
2. Alice Amelia, born June 25th 1871; died January 14th 1892; buried at Manor Park.
3. Horace King, a timber traveller, born 1874, and resides at Twickenham. Married May Margaret, daughter of Patrick Hession; she died July 30th 1932, and was buried at Twickenham. They had two children:—
  - a. Enid Patricia, born 1906; died 1923; buried at Twickenham.
  - b. Horace David King, born February 10th 1915. Educated at Taunton School; employed by a firm of timber merchants. A keen cricketer, and has played for Middlesex.
4. Archibald King, born December 17th 1877. Formerly employed in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank. Married in 1924 Ailso Brookhouse of Twickenham; they have no children; resides at Shepperton.



# PEDIGREE No. VI

## THE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID KING

DAVID KING, = ELIZABETH GENT,  
1812-1878. 1812-1886.



## CHAPTER XVI

### THE HERALDRY OF THE FAMILY

OUR family possesses no ancient right to bear arms. In Somerset from time immemorial it had belonged to that middle class of society known as Yeomen, a class which has long been practically extinct. Prosperous though it was in the first half of the eighteenth century, it never aspired to bear arms, and questions of heraldry were quite outside its ken. But with the increasing prosperity that followed the migration to London, the wealthier members of the family began to realize the significance and meaning of armorial bearings. The first to use arms was Franklyn Sydney King, who making the error made by so many families of the upper middle class, simply adopted the arms of another family of the same name and originating in the same county. The arms that he adopted were those of the well-known family of King, formerly of Glastonbury. The example of Franklyn Sydney King was followed in a tentative manner by the sons of Isaac King, whom we find using a crest and motto of varying form, either 'A cubit arm proper grasping a broken lance' with the motto 'Ne cede malis', or 'A dexter arm embowed in armour grasping a broken spear', with the motto, 'I break but do not bend'. But gradually the absurdity and gross impropriety of using crests or armorial bearings to which they had not the slightest right, and which were the private property of other families, began to be understood.

At last in 1913 Colonel King recorded the pedigree of the family at the College of Arms, and in the same year petitioned the Earl Marshal to issue a warrant to the Kings



of Arms directing them to grant and assign such Armorial Ensigns as they should deem proper to be borne by him and his descendants, and the other descendants of his father Edwin King. Accordingly by a warrant dated April 17th 1913, the Earl Marshal issued the necessary directions to Garter Principal King of Arms and to Clarenceux King of Arms, who by Letters Patent bearing date May 16th, granted and assigned the following Arms, namely, 'Argent a spider's web sable over all a chevron gules charged with four daggers erect proper pommelled and hilted Or', and for the crest they assigned 'A Springbock's Head proper gorged gules, issuant out of a mural coronet Or', to be borne with due and proper differences according to the Laws of Arms.

These arms are symbolical of the history and origin of the family. The principal charge, a spider's web, symbolizes that weaving industry upon which our family depended for at least two hundred years, and probably for very much longer. The four daggers on a red chevron, represent the four sons of Edwin King, who were all holding military commissions. The crest of a springbock's head, the badge of South Africa, commemorates Colonel King's war service in that country, the red collar being added to difference it from the national badge. The crown from which it issues is a play upon the name King, and it is mural in reference to the buildings from which the family derives its prosperity. The motto 'Duty' was granted at the special request of the four brothers, in the hope that it might be an inspiration to future generations. The livery of chauffeurs, and other menservants, follows the tinctures of the shield, and is therefore grey with black facings, and the buttons are silver bearing not the crest, but the badge of the eagle's claw granted in 1936.

In the year 1925 it became necessary for Colonel King to prove that his mother's family had the right to bear arms, in order that he might be qualified for reception as a Knight of Justice in the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Claiming descent on his mother's side from the family of Johnston of Elphinstone, a younger

branch of the family of Johnston of that Ilk, he thereupon petitioned the Deputy Earl Marshal for the issue of a warrant to the Kings of Arms directing them to grant and assign such Arms for Johnston as should be proper to be borne as a quartering by the descendants of his mother, and to appear upon any document setting forth the Armorial Bearings of his grandparents, the whole according to the Laws of Arms. By a warrant of the Deputy Earl Marshal, dated December 28th 1925, directions were issued to Garter Principal King of Arms and to Clarenceux King of Arms, who by Letters Patent dated January 30th 1926, granted and assigned the following Arms for Johnston, 'Sable a saltire coupé Argent in chief three cushions Or'. These charges, the saltire and cushions, have been borne by the family of Johnston from time immemorial.

With the passage of time it gradually became evident that the grant of armorial ensigns to the descendants of Edwin King would, in the ordinary course of nature, ultimately become extinct in the male line, since two of his sons had died without children, and the two remaining sons were likely to be childless. Accordingly, in order to prevent the grant from becoming extinct, Colonel King in 1934 petitioned the Earl Marshal for the issue of a warrant to the Kings of Arms, directing them to extend the limitations of the Patent to include the other descendants of his grandfather Isaac King. Under a warrant of the Earl Marshal, dated March 27th 1934, directions were issued to Garter Principal King of Arms and to Clarenceux King of Arms to extend the limitations as requested by an endorsement on the original Patent, which endorsement was made on April 5th 1934, the arms to be borne and used with due care and proper differences, according to the Laws of Arms.

In the following year Colonel King petitioned the Earl Marshal for the issue of a warrant to the Kings of Arms directing them to grant and assign a Device or Badge allusive to his services in the First Battle of the Scarpe in 1917, to be borne and used by him and the other descendants



of his grandfather Isaac King, upon their Standards, or otherwise, according to the Laws of Arms. A warrant was accordingly issued by the Earl Marshal, dated April 2nd 1936, to Garter Principal King of Arms and to Clarenceux King of Arms, who by Letters Patent, dated April 7th 1936, granted and assigned the following Device or Badge, 'An eagle's leg à la quisse reversed bendwise Sable charged with a Bezant, thereon the numerals 31 of the first'. This Device or Badge is symbolical of the clipping of the claws of the German eagle by the destruction of the 31st Regiment in the First Battle of the Scarpe.

Colonel King bears as an honourable augmentation to his Arms, a chief on which is blazoned the Arms of the Order of St. John, 'Gules a cross Argent, in the first quarter a representation of His Majesty's Crest', and displays his shield over the eight-pointed cross of the Order. This is an ancient privilege of the Knights of Justice of the Order of St. John, confirmed by Royal Charter. As a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, he encircles his shield with the riband of that Order, inscribed with its motto, 'Auspicium melioris aevi', and with the badge suspended from it.

Captain Harold Keith King bears upon his Arms on an escutcheon of pretence the Arms of Mews, 'Or four pallets sable on a chief indented of the second a rose between two crosses patées of the field', by reason of his marriage with Enid, daughter and co-heiress of the late John Mews of Westbourne Terrace, London.

### *FAMILIES DESCENDED THROUGH THE FEMALE LINE*

Three of the families descended through the female line have the right to bear arms, namely :—

- The Family of Barrington ;
- The Family of Tollemache ;
- The Family of Ashby of Yorkshire.

The descendants of Florence Madeline Bryant, a granddaughter of Betsy King and Charles Bryant, who married in 1906 George Harcourt Barrington, of the Queen's County Branch of the family of Barrington of Hatfield Broadoak, Essex, bear by Royal License dated 1717, the ancient Arms of Barrington, namely, 'Argent three chevronels gules, a label of three points azure', and for the crest, 'On a wreath of the colours, a Capuchin's bust in profile, vested with a cowl paly of six argent and gules'; the motto is 'Honestam quam splendida'.

The descendants of Jessie Winifred Bryant, a granddaughter of Betsy King and Charles Bryant, who married in 1906 Captain Leo Quintus Tollemache, Lincolnshire Regiment, son of the Rev. Ralph William Lyonel Tollemache, bear by Royal License, dated April 6th 1821, the ancient Arms of Tollemache, namely, 'Argent a fret sable', and for the crest, 'On a wreath of the colours, a horse's head erased gules between two wings Or, pellettée'; the motto is 'Confido conquiesco'.

The descendants of Rosina King, daughter of Abraham Dyer King, who married in 1868 Richard Ashby (afterwards of Scarborough), a son of John Thomas Ashby, bear by Letters Patent, dated January 8th 1932, issued on the petition of the Rev. Norman Ashby, M.A., the following Arms, namely, 'Azure on a chevron between three eagles, displayed Or, an upright sword between two crosses gules', and for the crest, 'On a wreath of the colours, between two crosses gules, an eagle close argent crowned Or'; the motto is 'Dat deus incrementum'.

Among the other families descended through the female line, cases have occurred of the adoption and use of the crests or armorial bearings of other families of the same name, a ridiculous and somewhat contemptible practice so regrettably prevalent among families of the upper middle classes during the last one hundred and fifty years, in the desire to give the impression that their families are more exalted in origin than is really the case.



## LETTERS PATENT

*Dated May 16th, 1913*

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Garter Principal King of Arms and William Henry Weldon Esquire, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Clarenceux King of Arms of the South East and West parts of England from the River Trent Southwards Send Greeting: WHEREAS EDWIN JAMES KING of 'The Elms', Highgate, in the County of London, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the 7th Middlesex Regiment, son of Edwin King late of Highgate aforesaid Gentleman deceased hath represented unto the Most Noble Henry, Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, Knight of The Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, that being desirous of bearing Arms, he requested the favour of His Grace's Warrant for Our granting and assigning such Armorial Ensigns as may be proper to be borne and used by him and his descendants, and by the other descendants of his father the said Edwin King deceased according to the Laws of Arms AND FORASMUCH as the said Earl Marshal did by Warrant under his hand and seal bearing date the seventeenth day of April last authorize and direct US to grant and assign such Armorial Ensigns accordingly KNOW YE THEREFORE that WE the said Garter and Clarenceux in pursuance of His Grace's Warrant, and by virtue of the Letters Patent of Our several Offices to each of Us respectively granted do by these Presents grant and assign unto the said Edwin James King the Arms following that is to say: 'Argent a spider's web sable over all a chevron gules charged with four daggers erect proper pommelled and hilted Or', And for the Crest, 'issant out of a mural Coronet Or a Springbok's head proper gorged gules' as the same are in the margin

hereof more plainly depicted to be borne and used for ever hereafter by him the said Edwin James King and his descendants, and by the other descendants of his father the said Edwin King deceased with due and proper differences according to the Laws of Arms. IN WITNESS whereof WE the said Garter and Clarenceux Kings of Arms have to these presents subscribed Our names and affixed the Seals of Our several Offices this sixteenth day of May in the Fourth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King Defender of the Faith etc. and in the year of Our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and thirteen.

(*Signed*) A. S. SCOTT-GATTY.  
*Garter.*

WILLIAM H. WELDON.  
*Clarenceux.*

Recorded in the  
College of Arms, London.

(*Signed*) CHARLES H. ATHILL.  
*Richmond Herald.*  
*Registrar.*

#### ENDORSEMENT ON THE PATENT

Recorded in the College  
of Arms London.

(*Signed*) ALGAR HOWARD  
*Norroy and Registrar.*

IN PURSUANCE of the Authority of The Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England signified by Warrant under His Grace's hand and Seal bearing date the Twenty seventh day of March instant We Sir Gerald Woods Wollaston Knight Member of the Royal Victorian Order Garter

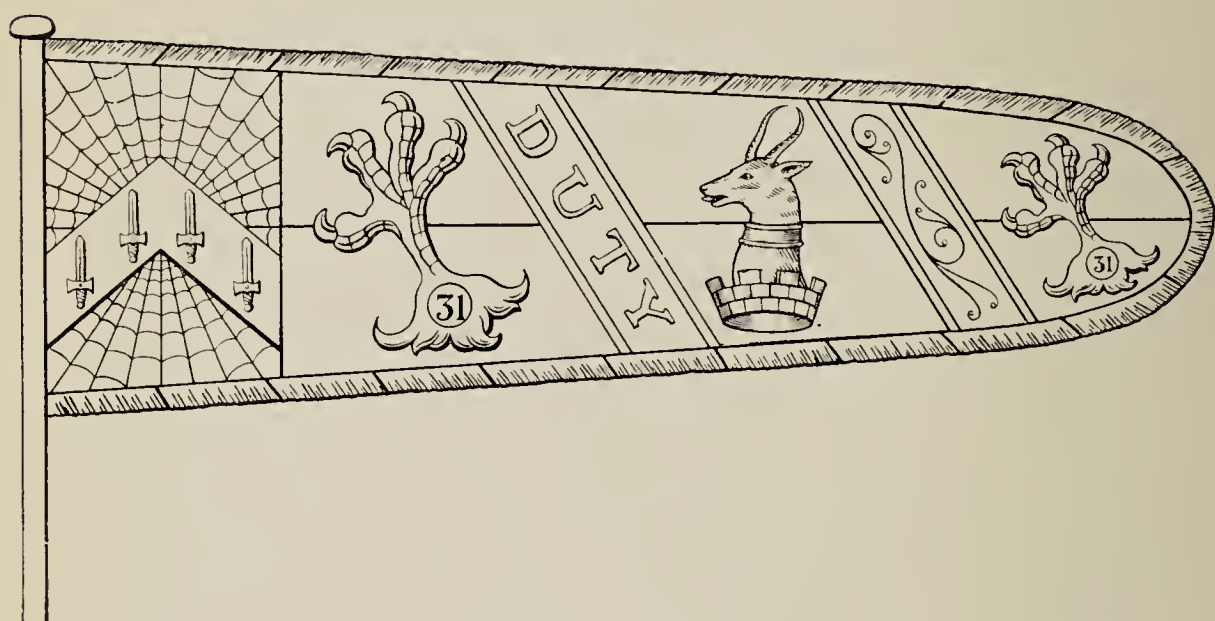




*From a drawing by the College of Arms.*

THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC KING.

*Facing p. 134.*



*From a Drawing by P. V. Collings.*

STANDARD AND BADGE OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC KING.



Principal King of Arms and Arthur William Steuart Cochrane Esquire Commander of the Royal Victorian Order Clarenceux King of Arms DO HEREBY EXTEND the limitations of the within Grant of Armorial Ensigns assigned to Edwin James King of The Old House East Finchley in the County of Middlesex Esquire Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George upon whom has been conferred the Territorial Decoration and the Order of Mercy Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England Colonel in the Army and Honorary Colonel Seventh Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) One of His Majesty's Aides-de-Camp in the Commission of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant for the said County of Middlesex eldest son of Edwin King late of Highgate aforesaid Gentleman deceased who was second son of Isaac King late of Buckhurst Hill in the County of Essex Gentleman also deceased to the other descendants of his said late Grandfather Isaac King deceased to be borne and used by them with due care and proper differences according to the Laws of Arms IN WITNESS whereof We the said Garter and Clarenceux Kings of Arms have to these Presents subscribed Our names this Fifth day of April One thousand nine hundred and thirty four.

(Signed) GERALD W. WOLLASTON,  
*Garter.*

ARTHUR COCHRANE,  
*Clarenceux.*

#### LETTERS PATENT

*Dated April 7th, 1936*

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come Sir Gerald Woods Wollaston, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order Garter Principal King of Arms, and Arthur William Steuart Cochrane, Esquire, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order Clarenceux

King of Arms Send Greeting : WHEREAS Edwin James King of The Old House, East Finchley in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, upon whom has been conferred the Territorial Decoration and the Order of Mercy, Knight of Justice of the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Colonel in the Army and Honorary Colonel 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) One of His late Majesty's Aides-de-Camp, in the Commission of the Peace for, a Deputy Lieutenant and (in 1935) High Sheriff of the County of Middlesex, eldest son of Edwin King late of Highgate in the said County of Middlesex Gentleman deceased, who was second son of Isaac King late of Buckhurst Hill in the County of Essex, Gentleman, also deceased, hath represented unto The Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England that he is desirous that a Device or Badge may be assigned allusive to his services when in command of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment during the first Battle of the Scarpe on April 9th. and 10th. 1917, he did in a series of attacks close by the Village of Neuville Vitasse capture the whole of the positions held by the 31st. Regiment of the German Army, taking two hundred and fifty prisoners, three trench mortars and four machine guns and completely destroying that Regiment, afterwards following up the victory in the early hours of April 11th. by successfully attacking the 86th. Regiment inflicting heavy losses and capturing from it a further one hundred and eighteen prisoners ; the said Device or Badge to be borne and used by him the said Edwin James King and his descendants and by the other descendants of his grandfather upon their Standards or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms. AND FORASMUCH as the said Earl Marshal did by Warrant under his hand and Seal bearing date the second day of April instant authorize and direct Us to grant and assign such Device or Badge accordingly



KNOW YE THEREFORE that We the said Garter and Clarenceux in pursuance of His Grace's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of Our several Offices to each of Us respectively granted do by these Presents grant and assign unto the said Edwin James King the following Device or Badge, that is to say : ' An Eagle's leg à la quisse reversed bendwise Sable charged with a Bezant, thereon the numerals 31. of the first ' as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted to be borne and used forever hereafter by him the said Edwin James King and his descendants and by the other descendants of his grandfather the said Isaac King deceased upon their Standards or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms. IN WITNESS whereof We the said Garter and Clarenceux Kings of Arms have to these Presents subscribed Our names and affixed the Seals of Our several Offices this seventh day of April in the first year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord Edward the Eighth by the Grace of God of Great Britain Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith etc. and in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty six.

(Signed) GERALD W. WOLLASTON,  
*Garter.*

ARTHUR COCHRANE,  
*Clarenceux.*

Recorded in the College of Arms, London  
(Signed) G. R. BELLEW.  
*Somerset Herald and Registrar.*

#### LETTERS PATENT

*Dated January 30th, 1926*

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come Sir Henry Farnham Burke, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Garter Principal King of Arms and William Alexander Lindsay Esquire, Commander

of the Royal Victorian Order, One of His Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, Clarenceux King of Arms Send Greeting: WHEREAS EDWIN JAMES KING of The Old House in the Parish of East Finchley and County of Middlesex Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, Colonel in the Territorial Army, hath represented unto Edmund Bernard Viscount Fitz Alan of Derwent, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, One of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and Deputy to the Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England that he is the son of Edwin King late of Highgate in the said County of Middlesex by Susannah Louisa his wife daughter of James Johnston late of South Woodford in the County of Essex all deceased, and he being desirous of having Arms for his maternal family duly assigned under lawful authority, therefore requested the favour of His Lordship's Warrant for Our granting and assigning such Arms for JOHNSTON as may be proper to be placed on a monument to the memory of his said late mother, to be borne and used as a Quartering by her descendants and to appear upon any document setting forth the Armorial Bearings of his grandparents, the whole according to the Laws of Arms AND FORASMUCH as His Lordship did by Warrant under his hand and the Seal of the Earl Marshal bearing date the twenty-eighth day of December last authorize and direct US to grant and assign such Armorial Ensigns accordingly KNOW YE THEREFORE that we the said Garter and Clarenceux in pursuance of His Lordship's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of Our several Offices to each of Us respectively granted do by these Presents grant and assign the Arms following for JOHNSTON that is to say: 'Sable a Saltire coupé Argent in chief three Cushions Or' as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted to be placed



on a monument to the memory of the said Susannah Louisa King (formerly Susannah Louisa Johnston Spinster) deceased, to be borne and used as a Quartering by her descendants, and to appear upon any document setting forth the Armorial Bearings of the Grandparents of the said Edwin James King the whole according to the Laws of Arms. IN WITNESS whereof We the said Garter and Clarenceux Kings of Arms have to these Presents subscribed Our names and affixed the Seals of Our several Offices this thirteenth day of January in the Sixteenth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty six.

(Signed) H. FARNHAM BURKE.

*Garter.*

W. A. LINDSAY.

*Clarenceux.*

Recorded in the College of Arms, London.

(Signed) ARTHUR COCHRANE.

*Chester Herald.*

*Registrar.*

## ORDERS OF CHIVALRY, DECORATIONS AND OTHER HONOURS CONFERRED UPON THE FAMILY

THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND  
ST. GEORGE

*Companions :*

1916, Lieut.-Colonel Edwin James King.

THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

*Officers :*

1920, Miss Nellie Maria King

1936, Major Ronald Mark Eton King

(Military Division)

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY OF KING

THE VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN  
OF JERUSALEM*Knights :*

1915, Lieut.-Colonel Edwin James King

*Dames :*

1926, Mildred, Mrs. King

*Officers :*

1936, Kathleen King, Mrs. Morrison

1937, Major Ronald Mark Eton King

## THE MILITARY CROSS

1916, Lieutenant Geoffrey Arthur King

## THE CROIX-DE-GUERRE (FRENCH)

1917, Edwin Franklyn King  
(With Star and Palms)MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES FOR GALLANT AND  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IN THE FIELD*The Great War, 1914-1919*Colonel Edwin James King  
(three times)

Major Leonard Reginald King

Major Stanley King

*Indian Frontier, 1935*

Major Ronald Mark Eton King

## THE TERRITORIAL DECORATION

1918, Colonel Edwin James King

1921, Major Stanley King

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN  
CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL

1935, Colonel Edwin James King



THE ORDER OF MERCY

1913, Lieut.-Colonel Edwin James King

ROYAL COMMEMORATIVE DECORATIONS

*Coronation Medal, 1911*

Lieut.-Colonel Edwin James King

Major Leonard Reginald King

*Jubilee Medal, 1935*

Colonel Edwin James King

*Coronation Medal, 1937*

Colonel Edwin James King

AIDE-DE-CAMP TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

1931, Colonel Edwin James King

HIGH SHERIFFS OF COUNTIES

1935, Colonel Edwin James King  
(Middlesex)

DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS OF COUNTIES

1927, Colonel Edwin James King  
(Middlesex)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

1900, Francis William Mark King  
(Croydon)

1928, Colonel Edwin James King  
(Middlesex)





PART II

FAMILIES DESCENDED THROUGH THE  
FEMALE LINE





## CHAPTER I

### DESCENDANTS OF BETSY KING, WIFE OF CHARLES BRYANT

**B**ETSY, the only daughter of William King of Leigh-upon-Mendip, married at Kilmersdon in 1829, a certain Charles Bryant, a farmer born in 1794. This Charles Bryant had a brother, John Bryant, who married Betsy King's aunt, Mary Padfield Flower, at Kilmersdon in 1821. Charles Bryant and Betsy his wife lived for many years at Pitten Street Farm, just outside Leigh-upon-Mendip. She died at Edford in 1882, and was buried at Coleford, and her husband died in 1887. They had issue:—

1. Frances King, born 1830; died 1851; buried at Coleford.
2. Charles Bryant, born 1831. (See later.)
3. Elizabeth, born 1833; died 1906; buried in Frome Wesleyan Churchyard.
4. David Bryant. Went to Australia as a young man, and was never heard of again.
5. Martha King, born June 1836. (See later.)
6. Mary Ann, born May 1839. (See later.)
7. William King Holbrook Bryant, born February 1841. (See later.)
8. Emily Jane, born 1843. Resided at Frome; died May 1925, and was buried at Frome.
9. Priscilla Matilda, born 1846; died 1851; buried at Coleford.
10. Franklyn Bryant, born February 6th 1855. (See later.)

1. *The Families of Bryant of Highbury, Turpin,  
Insley, Barrington, and Tollemache*

Charles Bryant, the eldest son of Charles Bryant and Betsy King, his wife, was born in 1831. He went up to London in 1846, and was apprenticed to his uncle, Abraham Dyer King. A man of very great business ability, he made a large fortune in speculative building in and around the City of London. He resided at Highbury, and in 1871 married Mary Hawes. He died at Ramsgate in 1887, and was buried at Abney Park, leaving three sons, and five daughters :—

1. Charles Bryant, born 1872. Married on June 17th 1929, Marie Claude Arlay, and resides at Nice. Has no children.
2. Frances, born 1874.
3. William Bryant, born 1875. Educated privately and at Exeter College, Oxford, taking his degree as Master of Arts. Was ordained priest, and for twenty-one years was Vicar of Clanfield. Married in 1896 Mabel, daughter of the Rev. Ralph William Lionel Tollemache, grandson of William, Lord Huntingtower; they had no children. He died at Clanfield on March 4th 1927, and was there interred.
4. Emily Hannah, born 1877. Married May 30th 1901, the Rev. Julian James Turpin, son of Archdeacon Turpin of Grahamstown, South Africa. For some years he was Vicar of Misterton, Somerset, and he died in London on January 18th 1936. They had issue :—
  - a. Phyllis, born March 14th 1902 at Dordrecht, South Africa.
  - b. Clifford Julian Turpin, born October 22nd 1903, at Hunningham Rectory, Warwickshire. Educated at Sandhurst. Appointed Second Lieutenant York and Lancaster Regiment August 30th 1923 ;



transferred to 3/6th Dragoon Guards February 1925; promoted Lieutenant August 30th 1925; resigned his commission September 1926. Farming in Canada.

- c.* Bernard Turpin, born April 29th 1905, at Hunninghan Rectory; died in infancy.
  - d.* Mary, born September 9th 1907, at Mamhead Rectory, Devon. Married September 8th 1927, Gerald Insley of Paramé, Brittany, and has one son, Gerald Insley, born December 17th 1929.
  - e.* Cedric Turpin, born July 16th 1909, at Mamhead Rectory. Educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford. A farmer.
  - f.* Patrick George Turpin, born April 27th 1911, at Torquay. Educated at Haileybury and Exeter College, Oxford. Appointed Second Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps, antedated to February 2nd 1933; promoted Lieutenant February 2nd 1936.
  - g.* Elma, born January 16th 1914, at Dodbrooke Rectory.
  - h.* Michael Richard Charles Turpin, born August 29th 1917, at Mamhead Rectory. Educated at Marlborough and Clare College, Cambridge. Died October 20th 1936.
5. Maud, born 1878. Resides at Hampstead. Entered the Roman Catholic Church.
  6. Henry Bryant, born 1880. An officer of the Mercantile Marine. Served with the New Zealand Contingent during the Great War, and died at Brisbane on April 20th 1918, and was there buried. His death was due to wounds received in France.

7. Florence Madeline, born 1882. Married April 19th 1906, George Harcourt Barrington, of the Queen's County Branch of the family of Barrington of Hatfield Broadoak, Essex. They reside at Hampstead, and have issue:—
- a. John Barrington, born March 3rd 1907. Educated at Clifton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Barrister - at - law of Lincoln's Inn. Married March 10th 1934, Margaret (Peggy) Whitfield Hayes.
  - b. Mary, born April 28th 1908.
  - c. Rupert Barrington, born November 25th 1910. Educated at Clifton, and at the Middlesex Hospital. A medical student.
  - d. Elizabeth, born September 23rd 1912; died in infancy.
  - e. Winifred, born July 5th 1916.
  - f. Anne, born March 30th 1918.
  - g. Claire, born June 25th 1921.
8. Jessie Winifred, born 1883. Married September 10th 1906, Captain Leo Quintus de Orellana Tollemache, Lincolnshire Regiment, son of the Rev. Ralph William Lionel Tollemache. He served in France and Flanders during the Great War, was mentioned in despatches, and was killed in action in 1914. His widow afterwards entered the Roman Catholic Church. They had issue:—
- a. Eva, born August 13th 1908.
  - b. Gerald Tollemache, born 1909; died in infancy.
  - c. Frederick Tollemache, born November 27th 1910. Educated at Charterhouse and Keble College, Oxford. Entered the Roman Catholic Church.
  - d. Robert Tollemache, born June 16th 1914. Educated at Charterhouse. Entered the Roman Catholic Church.

## 2. *The Family of Bryant of Birmingham*

William King Holbrook Bryant, the third son of Charles Bryant and Betsy King, his wife, was born in 1841 and died at Wells, February 7th 1917. From 1882 to 1887 he was farming at Wellington, New Zealand, where he married an Irish widow, and had three sons. One child was run over and killed, and on the death of his wife he returned to England with his two remaining children. One of them died at sea, and the surviving son, William Franklin Bryant, ultimately settled in Birmingham, where he married and had many children.

## 3. *The Family of Bryant of Gloucestershire*

Franklin Bryant, the youngest son of Charles Bryant and Betsy King, his wife, was born in 1855. He was a farmer residing at Tuffley in Gloucestershire, and served for some years in the Wiltshire Yeomanry. In February 1881 he married Jane West, the daughter of Richard and Sarah West of Longcross, Doultong, Somerset, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. He died May 24th 1888, and his widow, Jane Bryant, died February 3rd 1919. They were buried at Whaddon, near Gloucester, and had issue :—

1. Harold Edward Bryant, born July 1882 ; and died December 1890. Buried at Whaddon.
2. Helen Etheldreda, born April 1883.
3. Franklin Bryant, born September 6th 1884. By occupation a farmer. Died January 18th 1936, at Churchdown, Gloucestershire, and was buried at Whaddon.
4. Adelaide Victoria Janet, born January 1887. Resides at Backwell, near Bristol.
5. Stella Irene, born September 1888. Resides at Backwell, near Bristol.

## 4. *The Families of West and Doel*

Martha King Bryant, the third daughter of Charles Bryant and Betsy King, his wife, married at Stoke Lane



on April 17th 1873, a farmer, William Walter West, son of Richard West of Doultong, also a farmer. She died in 1922, leaving issue :—

1. Walter Thomas West, born January 1875. By occupation a farmer residing at Southwick. Married March 26th 1900, at North Bradley, Wiltshire, Phoebe Ada Lifely, daughter of Benjamin Lifely, of Southwick, dealer, and has one son.
2. Frances Matilda, born March 1877. Married Robert Doel, and had one son.
3. Charles Edward West, born January 1878. By occupation a farmer residing at Corston, Wiltshire. Married June 4th 1907, at Hinton Parva, Wiltshire, Lilian Amy Saunders, daughter of Washington Saunders of Hinton Parva, farmer, and has four daughters.
4. Winifred, born April 1880. Married William Smith in March 1908; has no children.

#### 5. *The Family of Willcox*

Mary Ann, the fourth daughter of Charles Bryant and Betsy King, his wife, was born in 1839; died in May 1889; and was buried at Coleford. On April 5th 1866, she married at Stoke Lane a farmer, Henry Willcox, son of William Willcox, of West Harptree, Yeoman. She had one daughter, Frances Gertrude, born in November 1871, and died October 1914.





*From a photograph by G. B. Coggan, Shepton Mallet.*

BETSY KING,  
WIFE OF CHARLES BRYANT.  
Born 1805. Died 1882.

*Facing p. 150.*





*From a photograph.*

ROSINA KING.  
WIFE OF RICHARD ASHBY.  
Born 1844. Died 1918.



## CHAPTER II

### DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM DYER KING, OF CHELSEA

#### 1. *The Family of Ashby of Yorkshire*

THE family of Ashby, with which the family of King has been so closely connected for over one hundred years, is of Yeoman stock, and came originally from Oxfordshire. There were living in that county during the latter half of the eighteenth century, a certain Thomas Ashby and Margaret, his wife, whose son John Ashby, a farmer, married at Great Rollright, Oxford, on March 31st 1783, a certain Ann Baughan of that village. His mother Margaret Ashby, was buried at Enstone, Oxford, on February 16th 1803, aged seventy-four years; and his father Thomas Ashby, was buried there on November 26th 1806, aged eighty-one years. John Ashby, who lived at Enstone for many years, had two daughters Margaret and Elizabeth, and three sons—Thomas, born 1784; Henry, born 1786; and Richard, born 1791. He predeceased his wife, who died in London on February 9th 1836, aged seventy years, and was buried in Bunhill Fields.

The three sons of John Ashby of Enstone, went up to London, where they became builders, Henry and Richard Ashby being extremely successful men, and founding the well-known firm of Ashby Brothers. In London they made the acquaintance of Mark King, who had come up from Leigh-upon-Mendip, and was working in 1819 under Thomas Cubitt, the leading builder of his day, and that was the beginning of the long and intimate connection between the families of King and Ashby. When Mark King

finally settled in business at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, he took as one of his apprentices, John Thomas Ashby, the eldest son of Thomas Ashby, who found amongst his fellow apprentices Abraham, Isaac and David King, the three nephews of his employer.

On the death of Mark King in 1830, they all went up to London, where they continued the trade of builders to which they had been apprenticed, and in which two of them, Abraham King and David King, prospered exceedingly. The close friendship of their youth was always maintained, and was eventually cemented by a double marriage, Richard Ashby of Scarborough, the second son of John Thomas Ashby, marrying Rosina, the third daughter of Abraham Dyer King in 1868, and his youngest son, John Thomas Ashby the second, marrying Martha, the eldest daughter of David King in 1867; whilst Ellen, the youngest daughter of David King, married in 1875 John Hughes Samuel, son of the Rev. John Samuel, Rector of Heythrop, Oxfordshire, and supposed to be a descendant of the Ashbys through the female line. The connection was linked still closer in the following generation by the marriage at Scarborough in 1905 of Colonel Edwin James King and his cousin Mildred, the youngest daughter of Richard Ashby.

The sons of John Ashby of Enstone, as they rose in the social scale, became desirous of bearing arms, and making the error that is so frequently made by families of the middle classes, simply adopted and used the arms of the family of Ashby of Middlesex, regardless of the fact that they had no connection with that family, which has been extinct since the sixteenth century. But in 1929 the Rev. Norman Ashby recorded the pedigree of his family at the College of Arms, and in the following year petitioned the Earl Marshal to issue a Warrant to the Kings of Arms directing them to grant and assign such Armorial Ensigns as they should deem proper to be borne by him and his descendants, and the other descendants of his father Richard Ashby, and by Letters Patent, dated January 8th 1932, the following Arms were duly granted



and assigned, namely, 'Azure on a chevron between three eagles displayed Or, an upright sword between two crosses gules'. And for a crest, 'On a wreath of the colours, between two crosses gules, an eagle close argent crowned Or'. Motto, 'Dat deus incrementum'. Livery, blue with yellow facings.

These Arms are reminiscent of the Arms which the family had been using without right for so many years. As a mark of difference the eagle of the crest is crowned and placed between two crosses, and the charges on the chevron are commemorative of the services of the family in the Great War. The sword is that of Major Cecil Ashby, who won the Military Cross in the Middlesex Regiment, and the two red crosses are symbolical of the services at the front of Captain Edgar Ashby and the Rev. Norman Ashby in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Richard Ashby, who married Rosina King, was a dental surgeon practising at Scarborough, where he died in 1900. For some years he held a commission in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, in which he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in 1878, promoted Lieutenant in 1880, and Captain in 1882, resigning his commission in 1885. His widow died at Tunbridge Wells in 1918, and was buried at Scarborough. They had issue:—

1. Rosina, born October 7th 1869. Married Thomas Edward Constant, of Scarborough, a dental surgeon, June 5th 1893. Died at Scarborough September 10th 1921, leaving one daughter, Eugenie, born March 30th 1894, married December 9th 1919, at St. Michael le Belfry, York, John Glover Robb, an electrical engineer, son of John McLorinan Robb of Reading, engineer, she resides at Richmond, and has no children.
2. Herbert Grimsdale Ashby, born November 4th 1870. Educated at Giggleswick School. By profession a dental surgeon. Died at Burton Bradstock December 9th 1919, unmarried.

3. Gertrude, born November 7th 1871. Married Professor Julius Lütsche, of Dresden, April 8th 1907. Died at Dresden November 5th 1913. No issue.
4. Beatrice, born July 23rd 1873. Died at Scarborough April 10th 1889.
5. Edgar Ashby, born November 30th 1874. (See later.)
6. Cecil Ashby, born September 22nd 1876. (See later.)
7. Mildred, born January 19 1878. Married Colonel Edwin James King March 1st 1905. No issue.
8. Reginald Frank Ashby, born August 29th 1879. Educated at King William's College, Isle of Man. A dental surgeon; for some years held a commission in the 1st East Riding Royal Garrison Artillery, appointed Second Lieutenant 1904, promoted Lieutenant in the same year, resigning his commission in 1912. Married Grace Pantland Hick of Scarborough, February 15th 1906. Has no issue.
9. Norman Ashby, born November 21st 1881. (See later.)
10. Douglas Ashby, born January 11th 1885. An invalid, residing with his brother Cecil Ashby.

#### CAPTAIN EDGAR ASHBY

Edgar Ashby, the second son of Richard Ashby and Rosina his wife, was born in London on November 30th 1874. Educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, and Guy's Hospital, London, taking the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and L.D.S. Practised in York as a dental surgeon. Married at Addingham, Yorkshire, Mary, the eldest daughter of the late Rev. William Coates Thompson, M.A., formerly Rector of Addingham. For some years he held a commission in the 1st East Riding Royal Garrison Artillery, appointed Second Lieutenant



1903, promoted Lieutenant the same year, and Captain in 1907, resigning his commission in 1911. On the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 he applied for employment, and on August 5th was appointed a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, being released from military service in August 1915. In December 1916 he was re-appointed Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and promoted Captain directly afterwards. He served in France and Flanders as Medical Officer to the 41st Divisional Royal Engineers, and was present at the Battles of Messines and Ypres 1917, including the Battles of Pilckem Ridge, Menin Road, and Second Passchendaele. During November and December 1917, he was serving in Italy, and in the latter month was released from military service. In September 1918 he was re-appointed a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was finally released from military service in April 1919.

Captain Edgar Ashby and Mary his wife, have issue:—

1. Richard Thompson Ashby, born January 15th 1909. Educated Gresham School, Holt, and St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his degree as a Bachelor of Arts. Appointed Second Lieutenant Territorial Army General List October 19th 1931; appointed Second Lieutenant Royal Artillery, antedated to August 28th 1930, and posted to the 5th Medium Brigade; promoted Lieutenant August 28th 1933; transferred to 5th Bombay Mountain Battery in 1936.
2. Hugh King Ashby, born May 11th 1911. Educated Gresham School, Holt, and St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his degree as a Bachelor of Arts. Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1935. Entered Civil Service under the Colonial Office, Department of Agriculture, in 1932. Stationed in the Malay States.
3. Rosamund Mary, born October 20th 1912.

## MAJOR CECIL ASHBY, M.C.

Cecil Ashby, the third son of Richard Ashby and Rosina his wife, was born at Scarborough on September 22nd 1876. Educated at King William's School, Isle of Man, and Charing Cross Hospital, taking his diploma as L.D.S. Practised in Scarborough as a dental surgeon. For some years held a commission in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, in which his father had been a Captain. Was appointed Second Lieutenant 1899; promoted Lieutenant 1901; and Captain 1905; resigning his commission in 1908. He commanded the representative contingent of his battalion at the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, receiving the Coronation Medal. On the outbreak of the Great War he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, and served with his battalion at Gibraltar and in France and Flanders. He was present at the Battle of Aubers in 1915, was promoted Lieutenant, and in the autumn was badly wounded in the hand and shoulder near Laventie, whilst acting as sniping officer. He was mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished services in the field. Returning to his battalion in 1916, he was present at the Attack on the Gommecourt Salient, a phase of the Battle of Albert, the first of the Battles of the Somme, and was very severely wounded in the lungs and liver by shell-fire. He was promoted Captain in 1916, and although permanently incapacitated by the severity of his wounds, he none the less returned to the front the following summer in time to take part in the Battle of Langemarck, one of the Battles of Ypres 1917, and was again wounded by shell-fire in the thigh. Returning to his battalion in the autumn, he was present at the Battles of Cambrai in 1917, and First Arras 1918, but he was too crippled by wounds to remain longer with his regiment, and in July 1918 he was promoted Major and appointed Commandant of the 2nd Army S.O.S. (Sniping, Observation, and Scouting) School at Bournonville, near Boulogne, an appointment which he held until the end of the war. In recognition of the magnificent



example of duty that he had set, the Military Cross was conferred upon this extremely gallant officer. Rendered incapable by the severity of his wounds of pursuing his profession as a dental surgeon after the war, Major Ashby unselfishly devoted the remainder of his life to the care of his invalid brother.

REV. NORMAN ASHBY, M.A.

Norman Ashby, the fifth son of Richard Ashby and Rosina his wife, was born at Scarborough on November 21st 1881. Was educated privately, and at St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his degree as Master of Arts, and being ordained a priest. For some years he held a living at Edmonton in Canada, returning to England on the outbreak of the Great War, and enlisting in the Royal Army Medical Corps on November 18th 1914. During 1915 he served in France at the Casualty Clearing Station at Merville, until he was invalided to England. He returned to France in the summer of 1917, and served with a Field Ambulance of the 60th Division as an Acting-Corporal, and was present at the Battles of Messines and Ypres 1917. In September he was invalided to the base, returned to England in February 1918, and was discharged as an Acting-Serjeant in August 1919. After the War he worked for a time as a Schoolmaster, afterwards as a tutor at Knutsford Theological College, and in 1934 was appointed Rector of Pertenhall and Swineshead in Bedfordshire, resigning his living in 1937. In recognition of his gift to the Order's Museum of a specimen of the famous Shelley Medal, he was in 1930 appointed a Donat of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and in 1936 an Officer and Sub-Chaplain of that Order.

2. *The Families of Stockwell, Dove,  
Powle and Lansdown*

Caroline Emily, second daughter of Abraham Dyer King, of Chelsea, married in 1862 Charles Stockwell, by whom

she had one daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Helen, born February 13th 1863. This daughter married Dr. Percy Dove of Crouch Hill, at St. Mark's, South Norwood, on April 26th 1893. Dr. Percy Dove served during the Great War as a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and in recognition of his services was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire. He died at Croydon on October 26th 1931, and was buried in Brompton Cemetery. His widow resides at Purley. They had issue :—

1. Avril Julia, born 1894; married at St. Mary's, Addiscombe, Surrey, June 3rd 1930, Captain Patrick Bevan Powle, Royal Army Service Corps, late Royal Dublin Fusiliers. They have one son, Brian Wyatt Powle, born February 15th 1934.
2. Alice Elizabeth, born 1897—by profession a doctor. —married (1) Dr. Reginald Carn, whom she divorced in 1929; they had no issue; married (2) Reginald Edward Blake Lansdown, of Parkstone, at St. Mary's, Addiscombe, October 1st 1931. They reside at Rio de Janeiro, and have issue : (1) Michael John Lansdown, born 1932; (2) Alison Ann, born 1935.
3. Lionel Frank Dove, born 1900; educated at Oundle School; married in 1927, at St. Mary's, Addiscombe, Gertrude Belmont Underwood, adopted daughter of T. H. Mason, of Croydon. A member of the Leathersellers Company. They reside at Purley, and have issue, twin sons, born November 27th 1933 : (1) Geoffrey Lionel Dove; (2) David William Dove.





*From a photograph by Howie, Junr., Edinburgh.*

CAROLINE EMILY KING  
AND HER HUSBAND, CHARLES STOCKWELL.  
Born 1843. Died 1876.

*Facing p. 158.*





*From a photograph in the possession of Mrs. Ida Harris.*  
EMMA KING.  
WIFE OF JOHN J. WEIGLER,  
AND HER SON.  
Born 1846. Died 1930.



CHAPTER III  
DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC KING,  
OF BUCKHURST HILL

*1. The Families of Chardin and Dowell*

ELIZA, the eldest daughter of Isaac King, married in 1862, Walter John Chardin of Clapton, a printer. The family was of French origin, having taken refuge in England during the persecution of the Huguenots, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Eliza Chardin died in 1890, aged fifty-four, and her husband died in 1895, aged sixty-three. Both were buried at Manor Park. They had issue :—

1. Elise Amelia, born 1865 ; unmarried.
2. Walter Edwin, born January 13th 1871, died May 3rd 1888, and was buried at Manor Park.
3. Frances Lucy, born 1872 ; married August 8th 1896, at Hackney Parish Church, Alfred Charles Dowell, Insurance Clerk, son of Henry William Dowell, of Stamford Hill, Engineer, and had one son.

*2. The American Families of Weigler,  
Harris and Smith*

Emma, second daughter of Isaac King, sailed for America with some friends on November 18th 1871. Early in the following year she married a certain John J. Weigler of Maplewood, Chicago. He was a German by birth, but nothing else is known by his son of his family and origin. The later years of their married life were not very happy, and they separated in 1897. Nothing was ever again heard

of John Weigler, and his wife died at Bensonville, Illinois, U.S.A., on January 12th 1930, in her eighty-fourth year. They had issue :—

1. Ida Augusta Victoria, born March 19th 1873, in Chicago ; married in Chicago on October 13th 1892, Joseph Parker Harris, who was born in Birmingham, England, on April 21st 1869. They reside in Chicago, and have issue : (1) Joseph James Harris, born August 2nd 1893. Is a manufacturer of varnish in Chicago ; unmarried. (2) Gladys Louisa, born August 10th 1895, and died November 30th 1917 ; (3) Virginia Augusta, born December 27th 1897, and married Walter Field of Chicago, on June 2nd 1923. They have no children. (4) Harold Eugene Harris, born November 16th 1899, and married Mildred Range of Chicago, on October 20th 1925. They have no children.
2. Florence Adelaide, born in Chicago, January 7th 1875 ; she married in 1896 a certain Frank B. Smith, and died on October 22nd 1917. They had one daughter, Grace Florence Smith, born in Chicago, April 30th 1898. She married on May 29th 1920, Wesley Smith, son of Henry Smith of Chicago, a manufacturer of awnings, and she died in July of the following year, leaving an infant son, Richard Smith.
3. Francis Edwin Weigler, born November 7th 1876. Unmarried, and was residing at 143 N. Center Street, Bensonville, Page County, Illinois, U.S.A. He died on October 15th 1932.



## CHAPTER IV

### DESCENDANTS OF EDWIN KING, OF HIGHGATE

#### 1. *The Family of Morrison*

**K**ATHLEEN, second daughter of Edwin King of Highgate, married in 1904, John Wheatley Morrison, eldest son of Samuel Allen Morrison of Tynemouth, Northumberland, a shipowner. He was born at North Shields in 1877, was educated at Cheltenham, and entered his father's business at Newcastle, of which he ultimately assumed management. He held a commission for eleven years in the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers, transferring as a Captain to the Territorial Reserve of Officers in 1911. Soon after the outbreak of the Great War, on September 16th 1914, he was called up for service, and was promoted Major on January 2nd 1915. He was first employed on instructional duties, and afterwards on recruiting, being re-transferred to the Reserve of Officers, and returning to civil life on October 28th 1916. He retired from the Reserve of Officers in 1921, with permission to retain the rank of Major. Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1934. He is a member of the Junior Constitutional Club, and resides at Shotley Bridge, County Durham.

The family of Morrison is of Scottish origin, and was established in Fifeshire during the eighteenth century, where they owned some mustard mills. The first of them to come south was a certain Robert Morrison, who settled

at North Shields early in the nineteenth century. His son John Morrison was a most successful business man, and founded the firm of John Morrison & Son, Shipowners. He married Catherine Allen, daughter of Samuel Allen of North Shields, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Their son Samuel Allen Morrison carried on the family business. He held a commission for over twenty years in the Tynemouth Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers, rising to the rank of Major and Honorary Lieut.-Colonel and receiving the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, and was a Justice of the Peace for the borough of Tynemouth. He married at Tynemouth Parish Church, in 1876, Sarah Wheatley, daughter of John Wheatley of North Shields, by whom he had five sons and one daughter, and he died at Tynemouth in 1917, and was there interred.

John Wheatley Morrison and Kathleen his wife have issue :—

1. Edwin Allen Morrison, born May 13th 1905. Educated Osborne and Dartmouth. Midshipman, Royal Navy, 1923; Sub-Lieutenant, 1926; Lieutenant, 1928; Lieut.-Commander, 1936. Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1926, as Esquire to his uncle, Colonel King; promoted Commander of the Order of St. John in 1932, and ceased to be Esquire to his uncle under the Royal Charter of 1936. Married December 15th 1931, at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London, Valerie, eldest daughter of Colonel H. C. W. H. Wortham, C.M.G., D.S.O., late Northamptonshire Regiment. They had issue: (1) Fiona Jean, born May 20th 1933, died October 1st 1933, and buried at Highgate. (2) Elspeth Christina, born December 25th 1936.
2. John Knarston King Morrison, born June 28th 1906. Educated Cheltenham and Oriel College,





*From a photograph.*

KATHLEEN KING.  
WIFE OF JOHN WHEATLEY MORRISON.

*Facing p. 162.*





*From a photograph by Kenneth McKenzie, Vancouver.*

GLADYS KING.

WIFE OF MAJOR RUPERT GRAY, M.C.



Oxford. Entered the Sudan Political Service, 1928. Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1927, as Esquire to his uncle Colonel King; promoted Commander of the Order of St. John in 1935, and ceased to be Esquire to his uncle under the Royal Charter of 1936.

3. Kathleen O'Ferrall, born January 1st 1908. Married at St. Ethelburga's, London, on September 17th 1936, Robert Fairless Harrison, only son of Robert Harrison of Newcastle. He was formerly a Captain in the 6th Northumberland Fusiliers, and served during the Great War in France and Flanders. They reside in Cheshire.
4. Susette, born September 6th 1910.
5. Jean Metcalfe, born January 21st 1912.
6. Eleanor, born January 15th 1914.
7. Nicholas Godfrey Morrison, born March 31st 1918. Educated at Cheltenham, and Clare College, Cambridge.

## *2. The Family of Gray*

Gladys, the fourth daughter of Edwin King, married in 1907 Rupert Gray, the eldest son of the Rev. James Black Gray, D.D., Rector of Crick in the County of Warwick. He was born at Crick in 1875, and was educated at St. Edmund Hall in the University of Oxford, taking his degree as a Master of Arts, and became a master at Highgate School. For some years he was an officer in the 7th Middlesex Regiment, but as a Captain transferred to the 5th East Surrey Regiment on May 25th 1914, proceeding to India with his battalion on the outbreak of the European War. He subsequently saw active service in Mesopotamia, Persia, and Siberia, was twice mentioned in despatches for gallant

and distinguished services in the field, receiving the Military Cross and the Russian Order of St. Anne. His Military Cross was awarded for services in Mesopotamia, whilst attached to the 6th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the official announcement stating: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action on two occasions. He showed great coolness under fire, and by quick grasp of the situation and bold leadership, cleared the right flank of the enemy and enabled the advance to continue". On the conclusion of hostilities he retired from the Army with the rank of Major, and emigrated to British Columbia, where he bought the property of his brother-in-law, Harold Keith King, in the Kettle Valley. In 1929 the family returned to England, and settled at Fleet in Hampshire.

The family of Gray is of Scottish origin, and is descended from a certain Alexander Gray and Agnes his wife, who were residing at Fordyce, Banffshire, at the end of the eighteenth century. Their son James Gray, born at Fordyce on October 30th 1790, migrated to London, and went into business there. He married at St. Botolph, Aldgate, on April 14th 1821, a certain Maria Williamson, daughter of John Williamson and Anne his wife, and born at Birmingham on February 18th 1797. This family of Williamson is said to have claimed to be descended from the famous Robert Bruce. James Gray and Maria his wife left five sons and two daughters, of whom the third son William Gray, born in 1825, entered the Indian Army and rose to the rank of Major-General. The fourth son James Black Gray, was born in St. Botolph, Bishopsgate on August 3rd 1833. Educated at Merchant Taylor's School and St. John's College, Oxford, and sometime Fellow of St. John's, he was ordained priest and took his degree as a Doctor of Divinity. He was for some years Vicar of St. Philip and St. James, Oxford, and was Rector of Crick from 1871-1908. He married Adelaide Joy Mallam, by whom he had five sons and four daughters.



Major Rupert Gray and Gladys his wife have issue :—

1. Rupert Edwin James Gray, born at Highgate October 14th 1908. Educated at Brentwood College, Victoria, Canada. Served for a short time in the ranks of the 28th London Regiment (Artists' Rifles). Appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 1936, as Esquire to his uncle Colonel King. A chartered accountant on the staff of Imperial Chemicals Ltd.
2. William Bruce Cameron Gray, born at Highgate, April 11th 1911. Educated at Brentwood College, Canada, Cheltenham College, and Wadham College, Oxford, taking his degree as a Bachelor of Arts. Articled to a firm of accountants in London.

CHAPTER V  
DESCENDANTS OF DAVID KING,  
OF UPPER NORWOOD

1. *The Families of Ashby of Kew, and Mellor*

MARTHA Hannah Ann, the eldest daughter of David King, married in 1867, John Thomas Ashby, the younger brother of Richard Ashby of Scarborough. She died in 1896, and was buried at Richmond. Her husband, who married a second time, died at Worthing in 1917, and was there buried. He was the last of the old firm of Ashby Brothers, and was at one time Master of the 'Turners' Company. The origin of the family of Ashby has already been dealt with in Part II, Chapter II.

John Thomas Ashby and Martha his wife lived at Kew, and had issue :—

1. Edith, born February 1st 1868 ; married in 1896 Herbert Williams Mellor of Hampstead, an architect, who died in 1915, and his wife died at Dunstable April 3rd 1935, and was buried at Sundon, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire. They had issue :—

- a. Desmond Williams Mellor, born June 20th 1898. Educated at a private school Margate. Enlisted August 1914 in the 9th Lancers, transferred to the 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade ; served in France and Flanders, twice wounded, invalided out of the service in 1918. Married in 1927 at All Saints' Church,





*From a photograph by Cotton & Co., Bayswater.*

MARTHA HANNAH ANN KING,  
WIFE OF JOHN THOMAS ASHBY.  
Born 1846. Died 1896.

*Facing p. 166*





New Jersey, U.S.A., Katherine, daughter of Hulbert Tan Eyck Beardsley. Has one son John Mellor, born December 28th 1928. Resides in New Jersey, U.S.A.

b. Marjorie Sybil Williams Mellor, born July 23rd 1899. Resides at Leytonstone.

c. Geoffrey Williams Mellor, born January 24th 1906. Educated Bedford Modern School. In the employ of Messrs. Waterlow Ltd. Married in 1934 Marie Boothby, originally from Grimsby. Resides at Dunstable.

2. Henry Moss Ashby, born 1870; twice married. Has no children, and lives in New York.
3. Elizabeth (Lily), born 1872; twice married; first in 1895, Dr. Lewis Williams of London, who died August 17th 1896; secondly, on April 20th 1909, at Sundon, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, William Frank Cooper, a farmer residing at Dunstable. There were no children. She died at Dunstable June 9th 1936, and was buried at Houghton Regis.
4. John Franklin Ashby, born 1880; married April 1st 1908, at St. Luke's, Richmond, Vera Amelia, daughter of George William Pearce of Richmond, iron and hardware merchant. Lives in Australia; by occupation a builder and contractor; has one daughter, Stephanie, born in 1909.

## 2. *The Family of Wyatt.*

Ann Christie, the youngest daughter of William Richard the eldest son of David King, married in 1902 Charles Frank Leigh Wyatt, a Land Agent, and resides at Crossways, Fyfield, Abingdon. They have issue, two sons :—

1. Norman Wyatt, born September 6th 1904. Educated at Aldenham ; a Chartered Surveyor, and is a Land Agent in partnership with his father ; serving in the Honourable Artillery Company ; unmarried.
2. Richard Wyatt, born December 29th 1909. Educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, and St. Thomas's Hospital. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., London. In practice as a doctor ; unmarried.

### 3. *The Family of Lewis*

Elizabeth Marion, the eldest daughter of Augustus Cornelius King, the third son of David King, married in 1905 Ernest Arthur Netterville Lewis, a commercial traveller, son of Arthur Lewis of London, and resided at Twickenham. She died in 1935, aged sixty-six years, and was buried at Twickenham. They had issue :—

1. Cynthia Marion, born April 6th 1907.
2. Geoffrey Arthur Lewis, born August 23rd 1911. Educated King's College School, Wimbledon. By occupation a Surveyor ; is unmarried ; a member of the Kingston Rowing Club, and represented them at Henley.



## APPENDICES

A.—EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS, ETC.

B.—MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS.

C.—WILLS AND GRANTS OF ADMINISTRATION.

D.—FAMILY RELICS.





## APPENDIX A

### EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS, ETC.

1. The Parish Registers of Leigh-upon-Mendip.
  2. Other Parish Registers.
  3. Wells Marriage Licence Registers.
  4. Note on the Family of John King of Leigh.
- 

#### I

#### THE PARISH REGISTERS OF LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP

(*Note.*—The name Patty is short for Martha, the two names are interchangeable, as are also the names Betty, Betsy and Elizabeth. The names in brackets are additions, made to facilitate identification.)

#### *A. Baptismal Register*

- 1647 William, son of Thomas and Sabrina King.  
1650 Thomas, son of Thomas and Sabrina King. Born  
December 1st.  
1654 Martha, daughter of Thomas and Sabrina King. Born  
March 7th.  
1657 Honor, daughter of Thomas and Sabrina King. Born  
April 14th.  
1659 Mary, daughter of Thomas and Sabrina King. Born  
February 21st.  
1663 Daniel, son of Thomas and Sabrina King. May 20th.  
1675 Philip, son of William and Joan King. April 26th.  
1677 William, son of William and Joan King. July 3rd.  
1679 Joan, daughter of William and Joan King. Born  
October 1st.  
1682 Thomas, son of William and Joan King. Born Decem-  
ber 23rd.

- 1684 Edward, son of William and Joan King. August 22nd.  
1686 Margaret, daughter of William and Joan King. January 4th.  
1689 Philip, son of William and Joan King. April 11th.  
1693 Thomas, son of William and Joan King. Born April 19th.  
1699 Edward, son of William and Elizabeth King. Born December 30th.  
1703 Joan, daughter of William and Elizabeth King. November.  
1705 William, son of William and Elizabeth King. October 4th.  
1706 Betty, daughter of William and Elizabeth King. January 6th.  
1708 Clark, son of William and Elizabeth King. August 18th.  
1712 Betty, daughter of William and Elizabeth King. June 23rd.  
1713 Daniel, son of William and Elizabeth King. March 8th.  
1716 Henry, son of William and Elizabeth King. January 24th.  
1717 Martha, daughter of William and Elizabeth King. February 4th.  
1725 Philip, son of Edward and Martha King. October 6th.  
1728 Thomas, son of Edward and Martha King. October 27th.  
1730 Martha, daughter of Edward and Martha King. August 17th.  
1735 Anne, daughter of Edward and Martha King. June 26th.  
1737 Betty, daughter of Edward and Martha King. June 3rd.  
1739 Prudence, daughter of Edward and Martha King. October 25th.  
1750 William, son of Edward and Sarah King. September 3rd.  
1752 Edward, son of Philip and Constance King. June 29th.  
1753 Edward, son of Edward and Sarah King. May 6th.  
1757 Constance, daughter of Philip and Constance King. March 7th.  
1760 Patty, daughter of Philip and Constance King. May 20th.  
1762 Clark, son of Philip and Constance King. August 29th.  
1764 Clark, son of Philip and Constance King. May 19th.



- 1767 Bishop, son of Philip and Constance King. March 22nd.
- 1775 James, son of Edward and Frances King. October 22nd.
- 1777 Edward, son of Edward and Frances King. March 2nd.
- 1778 Betty, daughter of Edward and Frances King. November 15th.
- 1780 Patty, daughter of Edward and Frances King. November 1st.
- 1782 William, son of Edward and Frances King. February 10th.
- 1784 Nancy, daughter of Edward and Frances King. April 9th.
- 1786 Charlotte, daughter of Edward and Frances King. March 26th.
- 1788 Mark, son of Edward and Frances King. October 13th.
- 1805 Betsy, daughter of William and Martha King. August 23rd.
- 1807 Abraham Dyer, son of William and Martha King. April 26th.
- 1809 Isaac, son of William and Martha King. Born July 5th.
- 1812 David, son of William and Martha King. Born February 9th.

*Entries not belonging to the main stem of the family.*

- 1656 Joan, daughter of Henry King. Born October 20th.
- 1681 Thomas, son of Thomas and Ann King. Born June 11th.
- 1682 Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann King. November 14th.
- 1713 Daniel, son of Philip and Elizabeth King. November 27th.
- 1740 Edward, son of William and Martha King. April 11th.
- 1740 Jonathan, son of Jonathan and Anne King. December 25th.
- 1741 Sarah, daughter of William and Sarah King. July 13th.
- 1784 Alice, daughter of Isaiah<sup>1</sup> and Mary King. December 5th.
- 1786 William, son of Isaiah and Mary King. August 13th.

<sup>1</sup> This Isaiah King almost certainly has no connection with our family. He married Mary Chivers at Kilmersdon on August 30th 1784, and she was buried at Leigh on July 23rd 1826.

*B. Marriage Register*

- 1654 September 4th. Andrew Sparke and Elizabeth King (possibly a sister of Thomas King or Henry King, whose daughter Joan was baptized at Leigh in 1656).
- 1745 December 5th. Philip Stevens and Martha King (daughter of William King).
- 1767 May 31st. William Clothier and Betty King (daughter of Edward King).
- 1774 July 26th. Edward King (son of Philip King) and Frances Dyer (daughter of John Dyer of Wedmore).
- 1777 September 15th. Philip King (son of Philip King) and Elizabeth Flower.
- 1784 October 21st. George Padfield of Kilmersdon and Patty King (daughter of Philip King).
- 1787 October 28th. Philip King, widower (son of Edward King), and Ann Hiscox.
- 1809 October 16th. James Lane and Nancy King (daughter of Edward King).
- 1810 September 3rd. John Farr of Witham Friary, and Charlotte King (daughter of Edward King).
- 1821 December 3rd. John West and Charlotte Farr, widow (daughter of Edward King).

*C. Burial Register*

- 1675 August 23rd. Philip King (aged 4 months, son of William King, Senior).
- 1701 September 6th. William King (aged 54, son of Thomas King).
- 1705 June 13th. Thomas King (husband of Sabrina King).
- 1709 November 14th. The Widow King (Sabrina King).
- 1711 April 22nd. Elizabeth King (aged 5, daughter of William King, Junior).
- 1714 January 28th. Daniel King (aged 10 months, son of William King, Junior).
- 1716 March 11th. Henry King (aged 2 months, son of William King, Junior).



- 1717 September 19th. Joan Sayer (wife of William Sayer, and widow of William King, Senior; she may however be the Joan Sayer, buried May 6th, 1714).
- 1718 May 25th. Elizabeth (wife of Philip, son of William King, Senior).
- 1720 November 25th. Daniel King (aged 57, son of Thomas King).
- 1736 November 14th. Anne King (wife of Thomas, son of Thomas King).
- 1737 November 9th. Thomas King (aged 87, son of Thomas King).
- 1740 May 7th. Martha King (wife of William, son of William King, Junior).
- 1740 May 11th. Prudence King (widow of Daniel, son of Thomas King).
- 1742 December 3rd. William King (aged 65, son of William King, Senior).
- 1747 May 14th. Jane King (wife of Edward, son of William King, Senior).
- 1747 June 6th. Elizabeth King (widow of William, son of William King, Senior).
- 1748 April 12th. Fruzan King (wife of Thomas, son of William King, Senior).
- 1750 December 21st. Rachel King (daughter of William King, Junior).
- 1752 May 20th. Thomas King (aged 49, son of William King, Senior).
- 1753 July 5th. Edward King, an infant (aged 2 months, son of Edward King.)
- 1758 December 28th. — King (probably William, son of William King, Junior, aged 53 years).
- 1762 June 18th. Constance King (aged 5 years, daughter of Philip King).
- 1762 June 24th. Edward King (aged 78, son of William King, Senior).
- 1763 May 10th. Clark King, an infant (aged 9 months, son of Philip King).
- 1764 August 25th. Edward King (aged 65, son of William King, Junior).
- 1776 February 25th. James King (aged 4 months, son of Edward King, Junior).

- 1779 — Martha Stevens, died April 29th (aged 62, daughter of William King, Junior).
- 1781 July 6th. Clark King (aged 73, son of William King, Junior).
- 1783 September 24th. Constance King (wife of Philip, son of Edward King, Senior).
- 1787 March 6th. Betty King (aged 9, daughter of Edward King, Junior).
- 1787 December 29th. Betsy Clothier (aged 50, daughter of Edward King, Senior).
- 1791 March 27th. Edward King (aged 39, son of Philip King).
- 1797 January 5th. Sarah King (widow either of Edward, son of William King, Junior, or of William King, his brother).
- 1808 March 23rd. Philip King (aged 83, son of Edward King, Senior),
- 1808 April 4th. Ann King (widow of Philip, son of Edward King, Senior).
- 1828 January 11th. Frances King, aged 72 (widow of Edward, son of Philip King).
- 1830 September 25th. Mark King, aged 42 (son of Edward King, Junior).
- 1833 May 26th. Bishop King, aged 67 (son of Philip King).
- 1833 September 8th. Philip King, aged 79 (son of Philip King).
- 1835 February 11th. Elizabeth King, aged 78 (widow of Philip, son of Philip King).
- 1835 July 9th. Martha Gotobed of Leigh, aged 55 (Patty, daughter of Edward King, Junior).
- 1851 March 11th. William King, aged 69 (son of Edward King, Junior).

*Entries not belonging to the main stem of the family*

- 1681 September 29th. Joan King (possibly the daughter of Henry King, baptized in 1656).
- 1681 December 6th. Thomas King (aged 6 months, son of Thomas King, Junior).
- 1718 April 24th. Prudence King (probably a daughter of Daniel and Prudence King).



- 1735 July 2nd. Betty King (possibly a daughter of Thomas and Fruzan King).  
 1740 June 8th. George King (possibly a son of Thomas and Fruzan King).  
 1740 September 25th. Edward King (aged 5 months, son of William, son of William King, Junior).  
 1741 January 25th. Jonathan King (son of Thomas and Fruzan King).  
 1741 February 1st. Jonathan, his son (aged 6 weeks).  
 1758 August 8th. Martha King (unidentified).  
 1826 July 23rd. Mary King (widow of Isaiah King).  
 1847 January 21st. Ann King (unidentified).

*D. Descendants of Philip King and Elizabeth Flower,  
 his Wife*

*Note.*—This branch of the family remained behind in Somerset, when the main branch migrated to London.

*Baptismal Register*

- 1778 October 4th. John, son of Philip and Elizabeth King.  
 1778 November 15th. Jonathan, son of Philip and Elizabeth King.  
 1781 March 18th. Constance, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth King.  
 1783 September 7th. Philip, son of Philip and Elizabeth King.  
 1789 April 12th. Jemima } daughters of Philip and Elizabeth  
 1789 April 12th. Honor } King.  
 1833 January 20th. Robert John, son of Philip and Ann King.  
 1854 June 11th. William Philip, son of John Robert and Eliza King.  
 1856 May 11th. Elizabeth Anna, daughter of John and Eliza King.  
 1861 October 22nd. Elizabeth Ann, daughter of John and Eliza King.

*Marriage Register*

- 1802 October 11th. John Clark, a sojourner, and Constance King.  
 1816 February 12th. Isaac Chivers, a sojourner, and Jemima King.  
 1816 March 3rd. Philip King and Elizabeth Chinnock.  
 1816 June 11th. Jonathan King and Angel Cornish, a sojourner.

*Burial Register*

- 1820 August 20th. Elizabeth King, aged 52 (wife of Philip, son of Philip King).  
 1859 February 6th. Philip King, aged 80 (son of Philip King).  
 1859 December 14th. Anna King, aged 3½ (daughter of Robert John King).  
 1868 January 14th. Eliza King, aged 36 (wife of Robert John King).  
 1869 May 26th. John King, aged 36 (Robert John, son of Philip King).  
 1874 November 27th. Anne King, aged 86 (widow of Philip, son of Philip King).

## 2

## OTHER PARISH REGISTERS

*Coleford.*—

- 1833 September 10th. Burial of Martha King, of Coleford (wife of William King), aged 52. Died of cancer.  
 1882 September 15th. Burial of Betsy Bryant of Edford, aged 77 (daughter of William and Martha King).

*Elm.*—

- 1722 August 31st. Marriage of Edward King and Martha Tapp of the Parish of Leigh-super-Mendip. By Licence. (Edward, son of William and Elizabeth King.)



*Frome.*—

- 1633 June 15th. Baptism of Elizabeth, daughter of George King (possibly, not probably, a member of our family).
- 1700 July 1st. Marriage of Francis Witcombe of Mells, and Honor King of Frome (Honor, daughter of Thomas and Sabrina King).
- 1702 October 10th. Marriage of John Christey of Nunney, and Mary King of Frome (probably Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann King, baptized 1682).
- 1733 May 28th. Marriage of Jeremiah Lacey and Sabra King (an abbreviation for Sabrina, probably a daughter of the Edward King, who married Jane Lacey at Whatley in 1707).
- 1764 September 17th. Marriage of John West and Ann King, both of Frome (Ann, daughter of Edward and Martha King).
- 1767 September 14th. Marriage of William King and Lydia Hill, both of Frome (probably the William, son of William and Sarah King, mentioned in Clark King's Will).
- 1773 April 19th. Marriage of Thomas King and Susannah Holliday, both of Frome (might possibly be the Thomas, son of Edward and Martha King, baptized 1728).
- 1782 July 16th. Marriage of Joseph Millard and Prudence King, both of Frome (Prudence, daughter of Edward and Martha King).

*Kilmersdon.*—

- 1748 November 1st. Marriage of Philip King of Leigh, and Constance Osborne of Kilmersdon (Philip, son of Edward and Martha King).
- 1804 October 8th. Marriage of William King, sojourner, and Martha Padfield Flower of Kilmersdon (William, son of Edward and Frances King).
- 1829 August 12th. Marriage of Charles Bryant, Bachelor, and Betsy King, spinster, both of Kilmersdon (Betsy, daughter of William and Martha King).

*Mells.*—

- 1737 December 6th. Burial of Honor Witcombe (Honor daughter of Thomas and Sabrina King).

*Shepton Mallet.*—

- 1772 September 14th. Marriage of William King and Mary Castle (possibly William, son of Edward and Sarah King, baptized 1750).

*Shoreditch.*—

- 1833 December 22nd. Marriage of Isaac King and Martha Hart (Isaac, son of William and Martha King).  
 1834 November 11th. Birth of Mark William King, son of Isaac and Martha King.  
 1836 March 6th. Birth of Eliza King, daughter of Isaac and Martha King.

*Stoke Lane.*—

- 1830 November 29th. Marriage of Philip King, widower, and Anne Cullen, spinster, both of Stoke Lane (Philip, son of Philip and Elizabeth King).

*Wells Cathedral.*—

- 1704 January 12th. Marriage of Arthur Holbrook of Leigh-super-Mendip, and Joan King of the same (Joan, daughter of William and Joan King).  
 1727 April 27th. Marriage of Thomas Taylor, Cloth-worker, and Joan King, spinster, both of Leigh-upon-Mendip, by Licence (Joan, daughter of William and Elizabeth King). By Robert Cryghton, D.D., Dean of Wells.  
 1732 July 20th. Marriage of Joseph Nash of the Parish of Frome Selwood, Millwright, and Jane King of Leigh, spinster, by Licence. By E. Lovell. (Jane, daughter of William and Elizabeth King.)

*Wells, St. Cuthbert's.*—

- 1713 September 9th. Marriage of Richard Govey of this Parish, and Elizabeth King of Leigh-upon-Mendip, by banns (probably she is a member of our family, but no other record of her exists).

*Whatley.*—

- 1707 February 13th. Marriage of Edward King of Leigh, and Jane Lacey of Frome (Edward, son of William and Joan King).



## WELLS MARRIAGE LICENCE REGISTERS

- 1704 Holbrook, Arthur, of Leigh-upon-Mendip, and Joan King (daughter of William King Senior) of the same, spinster; father consenting. At the Cathedral, Wells, January 12th 1703-4.
- 1705 Sayer, William, of Leigh-upon-Mendip, Yeoman, and Joan King, of the same, (widow of William King, Senior).  
At Leigh, Mells, Doultling, Stoke Lane or Donyatt.<sup>1</sup>  
On petition of the son of the said Joan King, May 31st 1705.
- 1722 King, Edward, of Leigh-upon-Mendip, Stocking Maker, and Martha Tapp, spinster, aged twenty-one: father consenting. At Mells, Leigh or Elm, December 29th 1722.
- 1727 Taylor, Thomas, of Leigh-upon-Mendip, Clothworker, and Joan King (daughter of William King, Junior) of the same, spinster, aged twenty-four; no parents. At the Cathedral, Wells, April 27th 1727.
- 1745 Stevens, Philip, of Leigh-upon-Mendip, Stocking Maker, and Martha King (daughter of William King, Junior) of the same, spinster. November 30th 1745.

## NOTE ON THE FAMILY OF JOHN KING OF LEIGH.

Throughout the eighteenth century there was living at Leigh-upon-Mendip another family of King, which as far as we know had no connection with our family, and appears rarely if ever to have risen beyond the condition of labourers. It is necessary however, to place details concerning this family on record, to prevent any future investigator into our family history from going astray. They are all the descendants of a certain John King, who in 1718 married one Jane Williams at Frome, both

<sup>1</sup> This marriage did not take place at Leigh, Mells, Doultling, or Stoke Lane, and must therefore have taken place at Downhead, where the older Parish Registers are unfortunately lost. Donyatt is here a phonetic spelling of Downhead, representing the local pronunciation.

being described as of Leigh-upon-Mendip. This John King died at Leigh in 1763, and his wife Jane died there in 1774, they had issue as follows :—

1. Jane, born 1719, married George Hales in 1739.
2. Daniel, born 1720, died 1732.
3. John, born 1722, married (1) Mary Sims at Mells in 1744. (2) Betty Smith at Leigh in 1794; he died in 1813, leaving a will, and Betty King, his widow, died in 1816. (See below.)
4. Thomas, born 1724, married a wife, Hannah, who died at Kilmersdon in 1806. (See below.)
5. Hester, born 1726, died 1726, M.I. in Leigh Church.

John King the second, by his first wife Mary Sims had issue :—

1. Betty, born 1745.
2. Daniel, baptized at Mells 1746, married Catherine Ryan in 1787, died 1825, and his widow died 1833.
3. Jane, born 1746, died 1746.
4. William, born 1749.
5. Jane, born 1751, died 1816. She had four natural children, William, born 1770; Betty, born 1776, died 1802; Abraham, born 1785; John, born 1791.
6. Nancy, born 1754, died 1758.
7. Henry, born 1758, died 1758.

Thomas King by Hannah his wife had issue :—

1. Jane, born 1750.
2. John, born 1751, married Mary Padfield at Kilmersdon in 1793.
3. Hester, born 1754, married George Britten in 1791.



## APPENDIX B

### MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

1. Leigh-upon-Mendip.
2. Leigh-upon-Mendip.
3. Coleford, Somerset.
4. Brompton Cemetery.
5. Brompton Cemetery.
6. Brompton Cemetery.
7. Bromley, Kent.
8. City of London Cemetery, Ilford.
9. Croydon (Queen's Road) Surrey.
10. Manor Park, Essex.
11. Twickenham Cemetery.
12. Highgate Cemetery.
13. Highgate Cemetery.
14. Highgate Cemetery.
15. High Beech, Essex.
16. Bishop's Cannings, Wiltshire.
17. East Finchley, Holy Trinity Church.

## I

## LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP

*(On the floor of the Church.)*

Here resteth the Body of  
Mr. Daniel King who departed  
this life November the 22nd. 1720.  
aged 58 years.

Also the Body of Mr. William King  
who departed this life December  
the 1st. 1742. Aged 66 years.

Also the Body of Mrs. Elizabeth  
King. Wife of the above Mr. Wm. King  
who departed this life June the 6th.  
1747. Aged 66 years.

Also the Body of Mr. Clark King  
their son, who departed this life  
July the 1st. 1781. Aged 73 years.

Also Betsy Wife of William Clothier  
and Niece of the above Clark King  
who died Decbr. ye 29th. 1787 aged  
50 years.



## 2

## LEIGH-UPON-MENDIP

Sacred

To the Memory of James the son of Edward  
and Frances King who died in his Infancy  
Feby. 20th. 1776.

Also of Edward Father of the above  
James King who departed this life March 20th  
1791. Aged 38 Years.

Also of Frances relict of Edward King  
who departed this life Jany. 4th, 1828.  
aged 72 Years.

Also of Mark Son of the above Edward  
and Frances King who died Septr. 17th.  
1830. Aged 42 Years.

Also of William Son of the above  
Edward and Frances King who died  
March 4th. 1851. Aged 68 Years.

“ Behold the change that Death hath made !  
How low the wise and great are laid ;  
Alike the Saints and Sinners die !  
Mould’ring alike in dust they lie.  
But there’s a Day shall change the scene,  
How awful to the Sons of men.”

## 3

## COLEFORD, SOMERSET

Sacred  
To the memory of  
Mrs. Martha King  
of this parish,  
late Wife of Mr. William King ;  
Born June 14th, 1781,  
Died September 6th, 1833.

In Testimony to departed worth  
and affectionate regard to her memory.

The memorial was erected  
by her children.

“ Arise ! Shine ! For thy light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen  
upon thee.”

Also their grandchildren,  
Priscilla Matilda Bryant,  
who died June 28th. 1851, aged 4 years.  
and  
Frances King Bryant,  
who died Octr. 1st. 1851, aged 21 years.

“ Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his Saints.”

Ps. 116, v. 13.

## 4

## BROMPTON CEMETERY

*(Private Grave)*

Sacred

to the beloved memory of Abraham Henry,  
son of Abraham and Caroline King.

Born Jany. 18th. 1841 ; died Feby. 4th. 1844.  
Buried at Bunhill Fields.

Also of William Mark King  
son of the above.

Born Octr. 5th. 1847 ; died Feby. 16th. 1849.  
Buried in another part of this cemetery.

Also of Alice Gertrude King  
daughter of the above.

Born Decr. 1st. 1856 ; died Novr. 2nd. 1860.

“ Alas ! we cannot call them back,  
Then, wherefore do we weep ?  
Our loved ones rest all peaceful now,  
In their immortal sleep.”



## 5

## BROMPTON CEMETERY

Sacred to the Memory of  
Abraham Dyer King,  
of Chelsea ;

Who died suddenly March 23rd, 1866, aged 59 years.  
Greatly beloved, and deeply lamented by his wife and children.

“ God is Love.”

Also

Melinda Clementina Martha,  
daughter of the late A. D. King, Esq.,  
Who died March 31st, 1868, aged 7 years 7 mths.

Also

Caroline Emily Stockwell,  
daughter of A.D. and C. King,  
drowned off Dover,  
Feb. 17th, 1876, aged 33 years.

Also

Caroline, widow of A. D. King,  
who died, December 24th, 1891,  
Aged 70 years.

To the loving Memory of  
Francis William Mark King, J.P.,  
late Alderman of Croydon  
elder son of  
Abraham Dyer and Caroline King,  
Died July 28th, 1920, aged 71.

He served God and his fellow men.

## 6

## BROMPTON CEMETERY

“ In the midst of life we are in death.”

Sacred  
To the Memory of  
Mrs. Martha King, Wife of  
Mr. Isaac King,  
who departed this life  
April 14th. 1852,  
Aged 39 years.

Also Mrs. Elizabeth Hart,  
Mother of the above,  
died Feb. 15th. 1854, in the 74th year of her age.

Also Mr. Isaac King,  
Husband of the above,  
Born July 5th. 1809 ; died June 4th. 1876.  
Aged 66 years.

Also David Flower King,  
Son of the above named Isaac King,  
and Harriett King, his second wife.  
Died November 2nd. 1903,  
at Nanango Queensland Australia  
and was there interred.  
Aged 40 years.

## 7

BROMLEY, KENT

In  
Loving Memory  
of  
Abraham Edward King  
who died December 21st, 1923,  
Age 69.  
“The Son of God loved me,  
and gave himself for me.”  
Gal. II, 20.

Also of Charlotte Helena  
dear Wife of the above  
who died April 3rd, 1933,  
Age 73.  
“I know that my Redeemer liveth . . . .  
and I shall see God.”  
Job XIX, 25, 26.



## 8

## CITY OF LONDON CEMETERY, ILFORD

*(The Family Grave of Mr. David King of Mitre Street, Aldgate.)*

To the beloved memory of  
Elizabeth Amelia,  
second daughter of the above :  
who departed this life  
November 14th, 1871,  
in the 22nd year of her age,  
after a long illness,  
by the Grace of God patiently endured,  
and by His Love graciously sanctified  
to her soul's Peace in Jesus.  
"Loved by all who knew her."

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken  
away : blessed be the name of the Lord."

Also David King,  
father of the above ;  
who departed this life  
May 11th, 1878, aged 66 years.

And Elizabeth King,  
wife of the above ;  
who departed this life  
March 19th, 1886, in her 74th year.

Also William Richard King,  
eldest son of the above ;  
who died January 18th, 1909, aged 69 years.

Anne King  
wife of the above  
died June 15th, 1927, age 81.

## 9

CROYDON (QUEEN'S ROAD.)

In  
Loving Memory  
of  
Franklin Sydney King  
Born 15th Octr., 1841.  
Died 13th May, 1892.

"Satisfied."

Ps. XVII. 15.

Also of  
Elizabeth Ann  
his dearly loved wife,  
Born 12th Septbr., 1839.  
Died 20th Novbr., 1910.

"Present with the Lord."

2 Cor. V. 8.

## 10

MANOR PARK, ESSEX

*(The Private Grave of Augustus C. and Helen King.)*

In  
Loving Memory  
of  
Alice Amelia King  
who died January 14th, 1892  
Aged 20 years.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for  
They shall see God." Matt. V., Chap. 8th verse.

Also Helen  
widow of Augustus C. King  
who died June 1, 1929.  
Aged 85 years.

"He shall wipe away all tears."

## II

## TWICKENHAM

Sacred  
To The Memory  
of  
Our Darling Daughter  
Enid Patricia King  
who passed away  
On Good Friday, March 30th, 1923.  
Aged 16 years.

“Of such she was, there be few on earth,  
Of such she is, there are many in heaven,  
And life is all the sweeter that she lived,  
And all she loved more sacred for her sake ;  
And death is all the brighter that she died,  
And heaven is all the happier that she's there.”

Also in loving Memory of  
May Margaret King  
Died 29th July, 1932.  
Aged 50 years.  
Beloved Mother of the above.



## 12

## HIGHGATE CEMETERY

*(The Family Vault of Edwin King of Elm Lodge, Highgate.)*

Sacred to the Memory  
of  
Edwin King  
who departed this life  
March 31st, 1895,  
Aged 56 years.

Also of  
Susannah Louisa  
his dearly loved wife  
who died  
May 13th, 1921.  
Aged 68 years.

Also of Nelly Maria King, O.B.E.  
sister of the above, and  
youngest daughter of Isaac King,  
died May 3rd, 1926. Aged 62 years.

Also of  
Major Stanley King  
late Middlesex Regt.  
3rd son of  
Edwin King  
died October 27th, 1921.  
Aged 39 years.

*(Continued opposite)*

Also of  
Major Leonard  
Reginald King  
late Middlesex Regt.  
2nd son of  
Edwin King  
died Sept. 24th, 1923.  
Aged 45 years.

Also of  
Beatrice Sarah  
eldest daughter of  
Edwin King  
died October 20th, 1926  
Aged 47 years.

Also of Fiona Jean, daughter of  
Lieut. Edwin Allen Morrison, R.N.  
grandson of Edwin King  
Died Oct. 1st, 1933. Aged 4 months.

Also of  
Mildred  
dearly loved wife of  
Colonel Edwin  
James King  
died Oct. 20th, 1935  
Aged 57 years.

## 13

## HIGHGATE CEMETERY (CATACOMBS)

Sacred to the Memory of  
 Harriett,  
 Widow of the late  
 Isaac King  
 of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.  
 Born 14th May, 1821.  
 Died 20th Novr. 1906.  
 R.I.P.

## 14

## HIGHGATE CEMETERY.

Sacred  
 to the memory of  
 Alfred King,  
 of Charman Dean, Worthing,  
 a benefactor of Guy's Hospital.  
 Born May 1st, 1841, died May 16th, 1913.

Also of Fanny Louisa, his wife.  
 Born July 6th, 1861, died Nov. 26th, 1913.

## 15

## HIGH BEECH, ESSEX

Sacred  
 to the Memory of  
 Mark William King  
 Born 11th November, 1834.  
 Died 16th August, 1895.  
 and of  
 Frances, his wife,  
 Born 2nd August, 1836.  
 Died 12th April, 1896.





*From a photograph.*

# THE FAMILY GRAVE IN HIGHGATE CEMETERY.

*Facing p. 196.*





*From a design by E. R. Barrow.*

MONUMENT IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, EAST FINCHLEY.

16

## BISHOP'S CANNINGS, WILTSHIRE

In  
Loving Memory  
of  
Alfred James King,  
Born April 26th, 1869.  
Died June 19th, 1918.

Also  
Ada Emma  
wife of the above.  
Born February 10th, 1870.  
Died May 3rd, 1935.

Hilda Marjorie King.  
Born April 10th, 1903.  
Died June 9th, 1904.

"Jesus called the little child  
unto Him."

17

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, EAST FINCHLEY

*(On the South Wall of the Church.)*

In Grateful Memory of  
Mildred King  
Dame of Grace of the Venerable Order  
of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem  
the dearly loved wife of  
Colonel Edwin James King, C.M.G., D.L., J.P.,  
of The Old House, East Finchley,  
Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King  
and High Sheriff of Middlesex.

After much illness long and bravely endured she  
departed this life 20 October, 1935, aged 57 years.  
The kindest and gentlest of women, the most  
devoted of wives, deeply lamented by her  
sorrowing husband.



## APPENDIX C

### WILLS, AND GRANTS OF ADMINISTRATION.

1. William King of Leigh. 1647-1701.
  2. Daniel King of Leigh. 1663-1720.
  3. William King of Leigh. 1677-1742.
  4. Edward King of Leigh. 1684-1762.
  5. Clark King of Leigh. 1708-1781.
  6. Frances King of Leigh. 1756-1828.  
(Widow of Edward King, Junior.)
  7. Mark King of Ashby-de-la-Zouche. 1788-1830.
  8. William King of Leigh. 1782-1851.
  9. Mary King of Southwark. 1776-1858.  
(Widow of Mark King.)
  10. Abraham Dyer King of Chelsea. 1807-1866.
  11. Isaac King of Buckhurst Hill. 1809-1876.
  12. David King of Upper Norwood. 1812-1877.
  13. Elizabeth King of Upper Norwood. 1813-1886.  
(Widow of David King.)
  14. Extracts from Wills.
  15. Note on searches made for Wills.
- 

### I

#### THE WILL OF WILLIAM KING

*Born 1647. Died 1701*

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, WILLIAM KING of Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset, being sick and infirm of body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory, praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say): First and principally I commend

my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping through the merits death and passion of my Saviour Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life : And my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named : And as touching the disposition of all such temporal estate as it hath pleased Almighty God to bestow upon me, I give and dispose thereof as followeth : First I will that my debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged. Item ; I give unto my son Edward King forty pounds to be paid to him when he shall attain the age of twenty one years for and in lieu of the rent of his house that my son William now liveth in. Item : I give unto my son Philip King forty pounds to be paid to him when he shall attain the age of twenty one years for and in lieu of rent of house. Item : I give unto my son Thomas King sixty pounds to be paid to him when he shall attain to the age of twenty one years for and in lieu of the rent of his ground. And if it shall please Almighty God that either of these three of my sons shall die before he shall come to the age of twenty one years that his legacy hereof bequeathed shall be equally divided betwixt my other three sons William and the other two. And if it shall please Almighty God that any or more of my sons shall die before he shall attain to the age of twenty one years that then his or her part shall be equally divided betwixt those of my sons that remain yet alive. Item : I give to my son William King one shilling to be paid in one year after my decease. Item : I give to my sons William and Edward equally betwixt them my longest ladder, and if any charge shall happen in the repair of it, it shall be repaired at their equal costs. Item : I likewise give to my sons William and Edward my great dyeing furnace and cistern to both their uses. And if it shall happen that any charge shall be wanting towards the repair of either of them, that it shall be paid by them both equally. And if my son William is pleased to have the furnace and cistern to himself, he shall pay to my son Edward King five pounds for his part in it. Item : I give to my grandson Edward King five pounds to be paid him when he shall attain the age of twenty one years. All the rest and residue of my personal estate goods and chattels whatsoever, I give and bequeathe unto my loving and well-beloved wife Joan King my full and sole EXECUTRIX of this my last will

and testament, unless that at any time after my decease she shall contract matrimony with any other man : Then I further give and bequeathe unto my son William King my two little furnaces one in the brewhouse and the other in the Combe-shop : And to my son Edward King one bed and bedstead and all other furniture belonging thereunto, and my biggest kettle and a large hanging press and two of my biggest pewter dishes and twenty pounds in money : And to my son Philip King my next biggest kettle and chest of drawers, and two of of the biggest pewter dishes and my silver tankard : And to my son Thomas King the bed and bedstead with all the furniture thereunto belonging now standing in the parlour chamber, and my next biggest kettle and three of my next biggest pewter dishes and bell metal pot and a large cupboard and twenty pounds in money. I further will and desire that if at any time after my decease there shall happen any great loss or losses to my executrix, by any bad debts or other ways, it being made plainly and fully appear to my trustees hereafter named, that then my sons above named shall bear their equal share of the loss or losses so sustained according to their proportion equally with my executrix, I do hereby constitute make and ordain my brother Daniel King and my brother-in-law John Raynes my trustees to see that all this be done and performed according to the true intent and meaning hereof, allowing my wife the full interest of the money for breeding up and maintaining my younger children. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of July Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and one.

(Signed) WILLIAM KING.

Signed and sealed in  
the presence of us :—

JOHN SALMON.

EDWARD HABERFIELD.

### *Probate Act*

Probatum fuit hujusmodi testamentum apud London coram venti et egregio viro domino Richardo Raines Milite Legum Doctore Curiae Praerogativae Cantuariensis Magistro Custodi sive Commissario legitime constituto vicesimo die mensis



Novembris Anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo primo juramento Joannae King Relictae dicti defuncti et Executricis in dicto Testamento nominatae cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta Dei evangelia vigore commissionis jurat.

## 2

## THE WILL OF DANIEL KING

*Born 1663. Died 1720*

THIS MY WILL. Item: I give to my brother Thomas King three hundred pounds to be paid in manner and form following viz.: ten pounds to be paid in one month after my decease, ninety pounds part of the said three hundred pounds to be paid in one year after my decease, and the remainder being two hundred pounds to be paid within two years after my decease, and in case the said Thomas King shall happen to die before the said monies shall become due then my Will is that so much thereof as shall remain unpaid shall be so distributed equally by my Executrix amongst his children, and to be paid in manner as aforesaid. Item: I give unto William Tabor<sup>1</sup> my sister's son twenty pounds to be paid to him within one year after my decease; to Philip Thomas and William King ten pounds a piece; to Mary Gamage daughter of Robert Gamage five pounds, all to be paid them within one year after my decease. I give unto my sister Season two hundred pounds to be paid her within two years after my decease to her own separate use, and that her husband shall have nothing to do with it, but she to dispose thereof as she thinks fit, but if she happens to die within the space of two years, then my Will is the said two hundred pounds shall be paid to her two daughters equally betwixt them in manner as aforesaid. I forgive the said William Tabor all moneys due and owing to me at the time of my decease, all the rest and residue of my goods and chattels I give and bequeathe unto my dear wife Prudentia

<sup>1</sup> William Tabor, son of William and Mary Tabor, was baptized at Leigh, on October 5th, 1682.

whom I make EXECUTRIX of this my last Will and Testament  
IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal  
this one and twentieth day of November Anno Domini 1720.

(Signed) DANIEL KING.

Sealed published and declared  
to be the last Will and Testa-  
ment of the said Daniel King  
in the presence of us :—

JOHN LANGHORNE.  
THOMAS BRIDGES.

*Probate Act. 1721.*

Probatum fuit hujusmodi testamentum apud London coram  
venerabili et egregio viro Johanne Bettesworth Legum Doctore  
Curiae Praerogativae Cantuariensis magistro custode sive comis-  
sario legitime constituto vicesimo prime die mensis Februarii  
Anno Domini millesimo septingensimo vicesimo juramentio  
Prudentiae King Relictae dicti defuncti et Executricis in dicto  
testamento moninati cui commissa fuit Administratio omnium  
et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditorum dicti defuncti  
de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad Sancta Dei Evangelia  
vigore commissionis jurat.

---

*From Probate Act Book. 1721*

February

*Daniel King.* Vicesimo primo die Probatum fuit Testam̄n  
Danielis King sup. de Leigh sup. Mendip in Cond.  
Somerset̄tiae defti hentis et Jurte Prudentiae King Rel̄tae  
dti Def̄ti et Extr̄icis et cui et de bene et vigore com : jurat.

3

THE WILL OF WILLIAM KING

*Born 1677. Died 1742*

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. Fourth day of January  
in the year of Our Lord 1739/40, I WILLIAM KING of  
Leigh in the County of Somerset Stocking Maker, being very  
sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory thanks

be given unto God, therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, that is to say : Principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul into the hands of God that gave it, and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless us in the life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form Item : I give to my son Edward King one shilling, Anne King the daughter of Edward King I give five pounds to. Item : I give to my son William King the house that he lives in, and a bond upon my brother Edward King of twenty pounds at his decease, and my best suit of clothes. Item : I give to my daughter Joan Taylor the house that she lives in during her life, and after her decease to be equally divided between Rachael and Betty my daughters. Item : I give to my daughter Jane Nash ten pounds for her own separate use. Item : I give to my daughter Rachael thirty pounds and a bed. Item : I give to my daughter Betty thirty pounds and a bed. Item : I give to my daughter Martha thirty pounds and a bed. Item : I give to my wife the plot of ground belonging to my brother Edward during her life. Item : I give my wife the furniture belonging to the house. Item : I give to my son Clark King the Screw Press and the other Press and the board and legs belonging thereto and the two turms and the Keet and the Long Table which stands in the Pantry. And I leave my son Clark King in trust for my daughter Joan Taylor. I likewise constitute, make and ordain my wife sole EXECUTOR of this my last Will and Testament, and my son Clark King with her, and my son Clark King as a Friend in trust for his mother.

(Signed) WILLIAM KING.

Signed sealed and delivered  
in the presence of us  
Witness our hands :—

WILLIAM TABOR.  
WILLIAM DAVIS.



*Probate Act. 1746*

This will was proved at London before the Right Worshipful John Bettesworth Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted on the 10th day of July in the year of Our Lord 1746 by the oath of Elizabeth King widow the Relict of the deceased and one of the Executors in the said will named to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased being first sworn by Commission only to administer power reserved to make the like grant to Clark King the son and other executor in the said will also named when he shall apply for the same.

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GRANT OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
ESTATE OF EDWARD KING

*Born 1684. Died 1762*

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that we CLARK KING of Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset Stocking Maker and CHARLES HYDE of Wells in the said County Peruke Maker are held and firmly bound unto the right reverend father in God Edward by divine permission Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells in three score pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain to be paid unto the said Lord Bishop or to his certain Attorney his Executors Administrators or Assigns. To which payment well and truly to be made We oblige ourselves and both of us by himself the one for the whole our and both of our heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals Dated the twenty-second day of September in the third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth, AND in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty three.

---

THE CONDITION of this obligation is such that if the above bounden CLARK KING lawful nephew one of the next of kin and Administrator of all and Singular the Goods

Chattels and Credits of Edward King the elder late of Leigh aforesaid deceased Do make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of him the said Clark King or into the hands and possession of any person or persons for him and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Registry of the aforesaid Lord Bishop at or before the last day of December next ensuing and the same Goods Chattels and Credits and all other the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased at the time of his death which at any time after shall come to the hands or possession of any other person or persons for him do well and truly administer according to Law and further do make or cause to be made a true and just attempt of his said Administration at or before the last day of September 1764, and all the rest and residue of the said Goods Chattels and Credits which shall be found remaining upon the said Administrator's Attempt, the same being first examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges for the time being of the said Court shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as the said Judge or Judges by his or their decree or sentence pursuant to the true Intent and Meaning of a late Act of Parliament made in the two and twentieth and three and twentieth years of the reign of our late Sovereign Lord King Charles the second entitled an Act for the better settling of Intestates Estate shall limit and appoint And if it shall hereafter appear that any last Will and Testament was made by the said deceased and the Executor or Executors therein named do exhibit the same into the said Court making requests to have it allowed and approved accordingly of the said Clark King above bounden being thereunto required do render and deliver the said Letters of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) in the said Court then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue.

(Signed) CLARK KING.  
CHARLES HYDE.

SEALED and DELIVERED  
in the presence of:—

G. LAYNG,  
*Dep. Regr.*



## 5

## THE WILL OF CLARK KING.

*Born 1708. Died 1781.*

I CLARK KING of Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset Stocking Maker hereby revoking every other do make publish and declare this MY LAST WILL and TESTAMENT as follows (that is to say) I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH to my sister Betty Cornish my four Cottages or Dwelling houses with the Gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging situate in the parish of Leigh-upon-Mendip aforesaid and now or late in the several occupations of Jane Jones, Robert Sydserf, Robert Cook and Deborah Gullick TO HOLD the same unto my said Sister Betty Cornish for and during the term of her natural life. On condition nevertheless that she the said Betty Cornish do at all times during her life keep the said Cottages or Dwelling houses in good and sufficient repair AND from and immediately after the decease of the said Betty Cornish I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the said four Cottages or Dwelling houses and premises as follows TO WIT THAT now or late in possession of the said Jane Jones with the Garden and appurtenances thereto belonging or therewith usually occupied to Bishop King youngest son of my nephew Philip King his heirs and Assigns for ever THAT NOW or late in the possession of the said Robert Sydserf with the Garden and appurtenances thereto belonging or therewith usually occupied to Clark King another son of the said Philip King his heirs and Assigns for ever THAT NOW or late in the possession of the said Robert Cook with the Garden and appurtenances thereto belonging or therewith usually occupied to Martha King Daughter of the said Philip King her Heirs and Assigns for ever AND THAT NOW or late in the possession of Deborah Gullick to Philip King another son of the said Philip King his heirs and Assigns for ever ALSO I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to my said Nephew Philip King my Dwelling house called Moxhams with the Garden called Cook's Garden TO HOLD the same unto the said Philip King for and during so long time as he shall live AND from and after the decease of my said Nephew Philip King I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the said last mentioned Dwelling house and Garden for all my



then remaining term and estate therein to Edward King son of the said Philip King his Executors Administrators and Assigns ALSO I GIVE to my said Nephew Philip King all my linen and Woollen wearing apparel I GIVE to my cousin William King son of my late brother William my cousins Thomas King and Martha Dean children of my late Brother Edward and my cousin Prudence Sims Daughter of my sister Elizabeth Cornish the sum of ten pounds a piece I GIVE to my cousin Prudence King daughter of my late brother Edward five pounds and to her brother William King I GIVE one guinea I GIVE to my cousin Sarah Decoster daughter of my late brother William twenty pounds BUT it is my WILL that the same shall not be paid unto her unless she shall survive her husband and that during the joint lives of her and her husband the Interest only of the said sum of twenty pounds shall be paid into the proper hands of the said Sarah Decoster to and for her own sole use and benefit separate and apart from her Husband and for which her receipt alone (notwithstanding her coverture) shall be from time to time and at all times a good and sufficient discharge AND in case the said Sarah shall die in the lifetime of her husband then it is my WILL that the said principal sum of twenty pounds and the interesting arising therefrom after her death shall be divided between all her children which shall live to attain the age of twenty one years or be married in equal shares if more than one and if but one the whole to go to such only child and to be paid on his or her attaining the age of twenty one years or being married which shall first happen ALSO I GIVE to my cousin Ann West wife of John West of Frome Peruke Maker the sum of twenty pounds BUT it is likewise my WILL that the same shall not be paid to her unless etc., etc.....  
 .....which shall first happen I GIVE to my niece Betty Clothier all my household Furniture Linen Plate and China and to her husband William Clothier I GIVE my working implements and utensils in the Trade of a Stocking Maker I GIVE to Sarah West wife of George West and Jane Witcombe wife of Joseph Witcomb one guinea each to buy them mourning I GIVE to Mary Furfit Daughter of Mr. Henry Furfit, one of my Mourning Rings and to the Poor of the Parish of Leigh-upon-Mendip I GIVE thirty shillings worth of Bread ALL the rest and residue of my monies

and securities for money I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to my friends Mr. John Bradley of Wells, Mr. Stephen Hill of Holcombe and William Lacey of Frome UPON trust that they the said John Bradley Stephen Hill and William Lacey, and the survivors and survivor of them his executors and administrators do put place and continue the same out at interest and pay the interest arising therefrom from time to time during the natural life of my said niece Betty Clothier unto the proper hands of her my said Niece to and for her own sole use and benefit separate and apart from her said husband it being my WILL that the said William Clothier shall not intermeddle or have anything to do therewith nor shall the same be subject to his debts or incumbrances and that the receipt alone of the said Betty Clothier for the same (notwithstanding her coverture) be from time to time and at all times a good and sufficient discharge AND from and immediately after the death of the said Betty Clothier UPON trust to pay apply and dispose of the Interest arising from the said Trust Monies for and towards the maintenance education and bringing up of all the children which the said Betty Clothier shall leave until they shall attain their respective ages of twenty one years or be married and then to divide the said trust monies between such children in equal shares if more than one and if but one the whole to go and be paid to such only child on his or her attaining the said age of twenty one years or being married which shall first happen BUT in case the said Betty Clothier shall have no children or child which shall live to attain the said age of twenty one years or be married THEN it is my WILL that the said Trust monies shall be equally divided between my cousins William King son of my late brother William, Sarah Decoster, Philip King son of my late brother Edward, Prudence Sims, the said Ann West wife of John West, and Edward King son of my Nephew Philip King share and share alike PROVIDED always and it is my WILL that if when the said Trust monies shall come to be divided as aforesaid the said Sarah Decoster or Ann West shall have a Husband living that then the part or share in the said trust monies of such of them as shall have a husband shall be under and subject to the like restrictions and be applied and disposed of in the same manner as is herein before mentioned and directed concerning the said legacies of twenty pounds by me given to the said Sarah Decoster and



the said Ann West respectively AND I do make constitute and appoint the said John Bradley, Stephen Hill and William Lacey Executors of this my Will and do give to each of them one guinea to buy a Ring PROVIDED ALSO and it is my WILL that my said Trustees and Executors shall and lawfully may reimburse themselves out of the said trust monies all such costs charges damages and expenses as they may be put into or sustain by reason of the trusts hereby reposed in them and that neither of them shall be answerable for the acts Receipts or Defaults of the other or others of them but each for his own acts Receipts and defaults only nor shall they or either of them be answerable or accountable for any involuntary loss of the said Trust Monies or any part thereof IN WITNESS WHEREOF I the said Clark King have to this my LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT contained on two sheets of paper, to the first sheet thereof set my hand and to the second my Hand and Seal the second day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty.

*(Signed)* CLARK KING.

Signed sealed published and declared by the Testator Clark King as and for his last WILL and TESTAMENT in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses hereunto :—

WILLIAM SELFE.

BETTY LACEY.

ANN BARNES.

Proved at Wells 5th May 1783 by the Oaths of John Bradley and William Lacey two of the Executors a power being reserved for Stephen Hill the other Executor.



## 6

THE WILL OF FRANCES KING,  
WIDOW OF EDWARD KING JUNIOR.

*Born 1756. Died 1828.*

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN I FRANCES KING Widow of Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset being of sound mind do make this my last Will and Testament : and I hereby leave and bequeath all that I die possessed of in this world as follows :—I give and bequeath to my daughter MARTHA the Wife of MICHAEL GOTOBED, to my daughter CHARLOTTE the wife of John West, and to my grand-daughter SARAH LANE, the sum of one hundred pounds to be divided equally between them, share and share alike, with any Interest thereon, which said sum of one hundred pounds is now in the hands of the aforesaid JOHN WEST, who has received my directions to place the sum into the Savings Bank at Taunton, in the name of the said JOHN WEST. Item : I give and bequeath to my two aforesaid daughters and grand-daughter all and every such sum or sums of money arising from Rent of Land or otherwise due to me at my decease, share and share alike. Item : I give to my aforesaid two daughters all my wearing apparel of every kind to be divided share and share alike between them. Item : I give to my grand-daughter Sarah Lane my bed and bedding and all my household furniture of every description. In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal this twenty-fourth day of October 1827.

(Signed) FRANCES KING.

Signed sealed and declared to  
be her last Will and Testament  
by the said Frances King in  
the presence of us :—

JOHN FREDERICK DOVETON  
*Rector of Leigh-upon-Mendip.*  
MARY SEASON.

## 7

## THE WILL OF MARK KING

*Born 1788. Died 1830*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL and TESTAMENT of me MARK KING of Ashby-de-la-Zouche in the County of Leicester Builder. First I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses be fully paid and satisfied within twelve calendar months next after my decease: I give and devise unto James Hunter Malcolm of Ashby-de-la-Zouche aforesaid Carpenter and Yates Bedford of Burton-upon-Trent in the County of Stafford Accountant all and every my messuages lands tenements hereditaments and real estate whatsoever and wheresoever with their rights members and appurtenances To hold the same.....Upon trust that they my said trustees or trustee do and shall absolutely sell and dispose of all my said real estate and hereditaments .....and the money to arise by and from such sales I do hereby direct shall be applied and appropriated by my said trustees towards the investment of the several sums and in payment of the several bequests hereinafter mentioned and made by me Item: I give and bequeath all and every my personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever (except such part or parts thereof as is or are hereinafter otherwise disposed of) unto the said James Hunter Malcolm and Yates Bedford their executors administrators and assigns..... Upon trust that they..... do and shall by with and out of the same pay unto my dear wife Mary King within one month after my decease the sum of forty pounds and upon trust to lay out and invest the sum of one thousand and four hundred pounds in their or his names or name in the Parliamentary stocks or public funds of Great Britain or at interest on Government or real securities in England.....that they the said trustees or trustee for the time being do and shall pay the interest dividends and annual produce of the said sum of one thousand and four hundred pounds and the stocks funds and securities in which the same shall be for the time being invested to or permit the same to be received by my said wife Mary

King and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life and from and after the decease of my said wife then upon trust to stand possessed of the sum of six hundred pounds (part and parcel of the said sum of one thousand and four hundred pounds .....for all or any one or more of my relations in blood..... in such manner as my said wife at any time or from time to time during her life by any deed or deeds..... or by her last will and testament or any codicil or codicils thereto .....shall direct or appoint give or bequeath the same.....and upon trust to stand possessed of the sum of eight hundred pounds (the remainder of the said sum of one thousand and four hundred pounds) and the stocks funds and securities in or upon which the same shall be for the time being invested for the persons and purposes and in the proportions following videlicet as to the sum of two hundred pounds for the purpose of laying out and investing the same in the purchase with the Pelican Life Insurance Company or some other eligible and reputable insurance office in the discretion of my said trustees or trustee for the time being of an annuity for the benefit of my niece Sarah Lane the daughter of my late sister Nancy Lane from and after she shall attain the age of twenty five years during her life ; for my niece Betsy King the daughter of my brother William King the sum of one hundred pounds ; for my nieces Melinda Clementina Lewis, Elmira Rosetta Lewis, and Mary Ann Lewis the daughters of my sister Martha Gotobed the sum of one hundred pounds each ; and for my nephew Thomas Gotobed and my niece Frances Gotobed the son and daughter of my said sister Martha Gotobed by her present husband the sum of one hundred pounds each ; and I give and bequeath the said sum of one thousand and four hundred pounds and the interest thereof accordingly and Upon trust that they the said James Hunter Malcolm and Yates Bedford and the survivor of them his executors administrators and assigns do and shall stand possessed of and interested in other part of the same trust monies and premises for the persons and purposes and in the proportions following videlicet for my brother William King the sum of twenty five pounds ; for my sister Charlotte West the wife of John West of Taunton in the County of Somerset Silk Weaver the sum of one hundred pounds ; for



my sister the said Martha Gotobed the wife of Michael Gotobed of Moneyers Street Hoxton New Town London Carpenter the sum of one hundred pounds and which last mentioned sum I do hereby direct shall be paid and applied by my said trustees or trustee in any way or manner they or he shall think proper for the benefit of my said sister Martha Gotobed either in the purchase of an annuity for her or otherwise ; and as to the sum of one hundred pounds for the purpose of laying out and investing the same in the purchase with the Pelican Life Insurance Company or some other eligible and reputable Insurance office at the discretion of my said trustees or trustee for the time being of an annuity for the benefit of my said niece Sarah Lane from and after she attains the age of twenty five years during her life ; and as to the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds for the purpose of laying out and investing the same in the purchase with the Pelican Life Insurance Company or some other eligible and reputable Insurance Office in the discretion of my said Trustees or trustee for the time being of an annuity for the benefit of my brother-in-law James Davis of Fulham in the County of Middlesex Gardener and Ann his wife during their joint lives and the life of the longer liver or survivor of them ; for the said James Hunter Malcolm the sum of thirty pounds and for the said Yates Bedford the sum of ten pounds and as to all the rest residue and remainder of the said trust monies and premises Upon trust to pay and apply the same unto or for the benefit of my said wife Mary King absolutely and I give and bequeath the said several sums unto the persons and for the intents and purposes hereafter expressed accordingly. Item : I give and bequeath unto my said wife Mary King the use of all my household goods and furniture plate linen and china for and during the term of her natural life and from and after her decease I do hereby give and bequeath the same to such of my relations in blood as my said wife shall by any writing during her lifetime direct or appoint.....Item : I also give and bequeath the other specific legacies following videlicet unto my said wife Mary King my books excepting my architectural books hereinafter disposed of, my gig and my old brown horse, my musical snuff box and the two watches, which have always been considered hers ; unto my said brother William King my silver watch with the gold chain and seal ; unto my

sister the said Martha Gotobed my silver hunting watch ; unto my said niece Sarah Lane the watch which was my father's and my gold brooch ; unto my nephew Abraham King the son of my said brother William King my gold ring ; unto the said James Hunter Malcolm my patent silver pencil case and Bramahs pen and one of my books entitled *The Builder's Director* ; unto my nephew Isaac King the son of my said brother William King the remainder of my Architectural Books I appoint my said wife Mary King and the said James Hunter Malcolm and Yates Bedford EXECUTRIX and EXECUTORS of this my will.....and I do hereby revoke all wills codicils and other testamentary dispositions made by me at any time heretofore and declare this to be my last will and testament. And lastly I desire to be buried by the side of my mother at Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset IN WITNESS whereof I the said Mark King the testator have to this my last will and testament contained in seven sheets of paper set my hand and seal that is to say my hand to the six first sheets and my hand and seal to this seventh and last sheet this twenty-eighth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

(Signed) MARK KING.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Mark King the testator as and for his last will in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses :—

MARY ANN PEAKE,  
St. Martin's, Stamford.  
J. G. DE MERVEILLEUX,  
Surgeon, Stamford.  
W. FRENCH,  
Solicitor, Stamford.

THIS IS A CODICIL to be added to and taken as part of the last will and testament of me MARK KING of Ashby-de-la-Zouche in the County of Leicester Builder Whereas I have

in and by my last will and testament bearing date this present day given and bequeathed unto or in favour or upon trust for my wife Mary King and her assigns the monies effects and premises therein mentioned Now I do hereby direct and declare that if my said wife shall marry again the said gifts and bequests unto or in favour of or upon trust for my said wife shall from the day she shall so marry again be revoked void inoperate and of no effect and I do in such case direct and declare that the trustees or trustee for the time being of my said will shall immediately after the marriage again of my said wife put into force the trusts of this my will and act in the execution thereof as if my said wife was then actually dead and I do hereby ratify and confirm my said will in all other respects IN WITNESS whereof I have to this codicil set my hand and seal this twenty eighth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

(Signed) MARK KING.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said testator Mark King as and for a codicil to be annexed to his last will and testament and to be taken as part thereof in the presence of us :—

MARY ANN PEAKE.  
J. G. DE MERVEILLEUX.  
W. FRENCH.

*Proved with a Codicil*  
*17th November 1830.*

8

THE WILL OF WILLIAM KING

*Born 1782. Died 1851.*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL and TESTAMENT of me WILLIAM KING of Leigh-upon-Mendip in the County of Somerset Yeoman I give and devise unto my son Isaac King



and his assigns during his life one annuity or yearly sum of eight pounds to be issuing out of and chargeable upon my closes of land at Wedmore in the said County of Somerset and hereinafter given to my son Abraham Dyer King with power of entry distress and sale in case of nonpayment of the said annuity or any part thereof in like manner as and for rent service such annuity to be paid by four equal quarterly payments in every year the first payment to be made on the first usual quarter day next after my decease I also give and devise unto my said son Isaac King and his assigns during his life one other annuity or yearly sum of eight pounds to be issuing out of and chargeable upon my seven tenements and premises at Coleford in the Parish of Kilmersdon in the said County of Somerset and hereinafter given to my son David King with like powers of entry distress and sale and payable as the annuity first herein given I give and devise to my son Abraham Dyer King all those my two closes pieces or parcels of pasture land lying and being in the said Parish of Wedmore and in the occupation of Mister Morgan to hold the same closes pieces or parcels of land with their appurtenances unto and to the use of my said son Abraham Dyer King his heirs and assigns for ever but charged nevertheless and subject to the annuity firstly hereinbefore given to my said son Isaac King I give and devise to my son David King all those my seven tenements and gardens situate at Coleford in the said Parish of Kilmersdon and now or late in the respective occupations of Mary Gait, Mr. Robins, Jacoleah Salmon, William Jefferies, Jemina Wilcox, William Cutler and George Padfield To hold the same tenements and premises with their appurtenances unto and to the use of my said son David King his heirs and assigns for ever but charged nevertheless and subject to the annuity secondly hereinbefore given to my said son Isaac King I request my said sons Abraham Dyer King and David King to pay and satisfy my debts funeral and testamentary expenses I give and bequeath all the residue and remainder of my estate property and effects including all rights share and interest to which I am or may be entitled under the will of the late Mark King of Ashby-de-la-Zouche in the County of Leicester Builder unto my daughter Betsy wife of Charles Bryant her executors administrators and assigns I appoint my said sons Abraham Dyer King and David King jointly EXECUTORS of this my will IN WITNESS whereof I have

hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

(Signed) WILLIAM KING.

11th day of December, 1850.

Signed by the said William King the testator in the presence of us who being present together at the same time have hereunto in his presence and in the presence of each other subscribed our names as witnesses :—

ALFRED EARL.

HENRIETTA SARAH EARL.

*Proved 31st, March 1851.*

9

THE WILL OF MARY KING,

WIDOW OF MARK KING.

*Born 1776. Died 1858.*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me MARY KING late of Ashby-de-la-Zouche in the County of Leicester and now residing at No. 51 Virginia Place Dover Road in the Borough of Southwark in the County of Surrey Widow I give to Mr. Abraham King my Portable Writing Desk I give to Mr. David King two pairs of silver table spoons I give to Mr. Mark King my silver medal I give to my cousin Anne Hooker the sum of one hundred pounds I give to my niece Susan Ray all or such part of my household furniture china plate jewellery books and pictures not hereinbefore specifically bequeathed as she shall choose I give to Mr. Isaac King such part (if any) of the said household furniture china plate jewellery books and pictures as the said Susan Ray shall not choose I give all the rest and residue of my personal estate unto the said Susan Ray I appoint the said Susan Ray and Anne Hooker the EXECUTRIXES of this my Will And lastly

I revoke all former Wills by me made IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand this second day of August one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

(Signed) MARY KING.

Signed and declared by the said Mary King the Testatrix as and for her last Will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses :—

FREDERICK JESSE FOAT.

JANE ELIZABETH EDWARDS.

*Proved 16th June 1858.*

10

GRANT OF ADMINISTRATION OF  
THE ESTATE OF ABRAHAM DYER KING.

*Born 1807. Died 1866.*

On the 20th day of April 1866 Letters of Administration of all and singular the personal estate and effects of Abraham Dyer King late of Clock House King's Place King's Road Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Builder deceased who died on the 23rd day of March 1866 at St. George's Hospital Grosvenor Place Hyde Park Corner in the said County intestate were granted at the Principal Registry of Her Majesty's Court of Probate to Caroline King of Clock House aforesaid the lawful widow and relict of the said deceased she having been first sworn duly to administer. Effects under £12,000.

11

THE WILL OF ISAAC KING.

*Born 1809. Died 1876.*

I ISAAC KING of Ambrose Villa Buckhurst Hill in the County of Essex Builder do hereby revoke all testamentary



dispositions heretobefore made by me and declare this to be my last will and testament I bequeath to my wife all my furniture linen glass and other articles of household use or ornament absolutely I bequeath to my son Walter my gold watch and chain I bequeath to my son Alfred all my books on or relating to architecture and as to all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate of whatever nature or description I bequeath the same to my son Edwin King upon trust to receive the rents issues and profits of my real estate and such part of my personal estate as shall not consist of money and after payment of any ground rents interest on mortgages repairs or other outgoings that may from time to time be due or payable to pay the same to my said wife during her life for her sole and separate use and benefit And after the death of my said wife I direct my said son his heirs executors administrators or assigns as soon as conveniently may be to sell my said real and personal estate except such parts of the said personal estate as may consist of money and to stand possessed of the moneys to arise from such sale and of such part of my said personal estate as may consist of money and shall hold the said moneys and the income thereof upon trust for all my children share and share alike and I appoint the said Edwin King trustee and EXECUTOR of this my will IN WITNESS whereof I the said Isaac King have to this my last will and testament set my hand this 23rd day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy six.

*(Signed)* ISAAC KING.

Signed and acknowledged by the above named testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses :—

WILLIAM SKENE

M.D. of Buckhurst Hill.

JOHN POND

Gentleman : Buckhurst Hill.

*Proved 7th July 1876.*

## THE WILL OF DAVID KING.

*Born 1812. Died 1877.*

I David King of number 3 Farquhar Terrace Upper Norwood in the County of Surrey and of number 5 Mitre Street Aldgate in the City of London Builder revoke all testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last Will and Testament I appoint my Son Franklin Sydney King of number 5 Mitre Street aforesaid Builder and Charles Bryant of number 105 Grosvenor Road Canonbury in the County of Middlesex Gentleman EXECUTORS and Trustees of this my will I direct the payment of my first debts and funeral and testamentary expenses as soon as conveniently may be after my decease I bequeath to my Wife Elizabeth King all my household furniture plate (except my presentation plate herein after given to my said Son Franklin Sydney King) linen glass china books pictures prints wines liquors fuel housekeeping stores and other effects absolutely I also bequeath to my said Wife the sum of fifty pounds for her immediate use and to be paid to her as soon as conveniently may be after my decease I bequeath to my said Son Franklin Sydney King the Portsoken Ward Presentation of Vote of Thanks and the plate which accompanied it I bequeath the following legacies free of legacy duty to my niece Rosina King two hundred pounds to my said Son Franklin Sydney King fifty pounds and to the said Charles Bryant fifty pounds I bequeath all my leasehold properties situate at Snow Hill Little Britain King Edward Street Bull and Mouth Street and Watling Street all in the City of London to the said Franklin Sydney King and Charles Bryant their executors administrators and assigns upon trust (until the same or either of the said properties shall be sold under the power hereinafter contained) during the life of my said wife Elizabeth King to collect and receive the rents and annual income thereof and after payment of the rents and the observance and performance of the covenants and conditions reserved and contained in the Indentures of Lease under which I hold the same respectively to stand possessed of the net income thereof Upon trust to pay thereout the sum of three hundred pounds per annum to my said wife Elizabeth King the sum of ten pounds per annum to my Sister-in-law Anne Gent the sum of ten pounds



per annum To my cousin Sarah Trott the sum of five pounds per annum To — Trott the Daughter in law of my said Cousin Sarah Trott and subject to such payments to divide the surplus of the said annual income amongst my Children William Richard King Augustus Cornelius King Martha Hannah Ann Ashby David King the Younger Charles Arthur King and Ellen Samuel in equal shares and proportions the shares of my said daughters to be for their sole and separate use free from the control or interference of any present or future husband and their respective receipts alone to be good discharges to my said Trustees And I hereby declare that it shall be lawful for my said Trustees during the lifetime of my said Wife in their absolute discretion at any time to sell and dispose of my said leasehold properties or either of them by the means and subject to the conditions in all respects as the same are to be sold after the death of my said Wife and to stand possessed of the proceeds of such sale or sales Upon trust to invest the same upon or in any of the securities hereinafter mentioned and to stand possessed of such proceeds and the stocks funds and securities whereon the same shall be invested and the income thereof upon the same or the like trusts as are hereinbefore declared concerning the net income of such leasehold properties or property during the life of my said wife and after the death of my said wife upon trust to sell the said leasehold properties together or in parcels by public auction or private contract with power to make any special conditions as to title or evidence of title or otherwise and with power to buy in the premises at any public sale or to rescind either on terms or gratuitously any contract and to resell without being answerable for any consequent loss and to assign the premises respectively so sold to the purchaser or purchasers thereof and to invest the monies to arise from such sale in the names or name of the Trustees or Trustee of this my will in or upon any of the public stocks or funds or on Government Securities of the United Kingdom or on Bank Stock or on Mortgage of freehold copyhold or leasehold estates in England or Wales but not in Ireland or upon Bonds debentures or guaranteed stock of any Railway Canal or Dock Company in England authorized by special act of parliament and at the time of the investment thereon respectively paying dividends and as to the money to arise as aforesaid and the stocks funds and securities whereon



the same shall be invested and the income thereof my said Trustees or Trustee shall stand possessed thereof Upon trust to divide the same into six equal parts or shares and to stand possessed of such six equal parts or shares and income thereof Upon trust for my Children the said William Richard King Augustus Cornelius King Martha Hannah Ann Ashby David King the Younger Charles Arthur King and Ellen Samuel Provided always that the share of each of my said Children of and in the said trust funds and the income thereof shall not rest in him or her absolutely but shall be held by my said Trustees or Trustee Upon trust to pay the income thereof half yearly to my said Son and Daughter during his and her life without power of anticipation and after his or her death upon trust for all or any the Children or Child of my said Son and Daughter if more than one who attain the age of twenty one years in equal shares as tenants in common but if there shall be no child of my said Son or Daughter who attains the age of twenty one years then I direct that the said share or of any share which my said Son or Daughter shall take under this provision or any other provision of accruer hereinafter contained in this my Will (except the share or shares of my daughter Ellen Samuel) if my Son or daughter shall leave a Wife or husband surviving him or her upon trust for his or her surviving husband or Wife and if he or she shall not leave a wife or husband surviving him or her the said share and any such accruing share as aforesaid shall accrue to and devolve upon the others of my said six Children in equal shares as tenants in common and the share or shares interest or interests which shall so devolve upon and accrue to every of my said Children shall be held upon the trusts and with and subject to the powers provisoes and declarations (including this present provision of accruer) hereby expressed concerning the original share of such child of mine and I declare that in case of the death of my said Daughter Ellen Samuel without issue her share and interest under this my will shall not go to her husband but shall accrue to and devolve upon the others of my said Children in equal shares and be held upon the same trusts as the original share of such Child of mine as if my said daughter Ellen Samuel had died without leaving any husband her surviving and I declare that in the meantime and until the sale of such leasehold property the rents and yearly produce thereof

shall be subject to the trusts and provisions hereinbefore contained concerning the money to arise therefrom and concerning the income of such money I give devise and bequeath all my real estate whatsoever and the RESIDUE of my personal estate unto and to the use of my said Trustees their heirs executors and administrators upon trust to sell convert collect get in the same and to receive the money to arise therefrom with full authority to compound debts submit differences to arbitration give receipts execute releases and do or concur in all acts and arrangements for realizing my estate or settling my affairs according to their discretion and to stand possessed of the proceeds of the sale of my said real estate and residuary personal estate upon trust for my said Children William Richard King Augustus Cornelius King Martha Hannah Ann Ashby David King the Younger Charles Arthur King and Ellen Samuel in equal shares as Tenants in common And I hereby expressly declare that the share or shares interest or interests under this my Will either in income or otherwise given to my daughters shall not vest in her absolutely but shall be held by my said Trustees or Trustee upon the same trusts as are hereinbefore declared concerning the share or shares interest or interests of my said daughter in the rents proceeds investments and income of my said leasehold property Provided always and I hereby declare that in the event of a dissolution of the present partnership between my son in law John Thomas Ashby and John Thomas Merritt it shall be lawful for my Trustees with the consent of my Daughter Martha Hannah Ann Ashby to raise and lend out of the share and interest of my said daughter under this my will to her husband the said John Thomas Ashby upon her sole personal security any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole one thousand pounds sterling he paying interest for the same at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum and also that it shall be lawful for my Trustees upon the request of either of my said sons David King and Charles Arthur King to raise and pay to them respectively out of the share and interest to which they may respectively be entitled under this my will any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the sum of one thousand pounds sterling to each of them such payment or payments to be in part satisfaction and discharge of their respective shares or interests under this my Will Provided also and I hereby declare that my said Trustees or



Trustee shall have power until my said leasehold property shall be sold to grant leases thereof for any term not exceeding twenty one years in possession at the best rent and generally to manage and improve the same at their or his discretion I declare that my Trustees shall have power to apply the whole or any part of the annual income to which each grandchild of mine shall be entitled in possession in or towards the maintenance or education or otherwise for the benefit of such Grandchild during minority whether such object being a female shall be married or not and the unapplied income shall be accumulated and the accumulations thereof shall be liable to be applied in like manner and subject to such liability shall be deemed accretions to the Capital whence the same income arose and also power to apply any part not exceeding one half of the capital to which each or any Grandchild shall be entitled in possession or reversion in or towards the establishment or advancement in the world of such Grandchild Provided also and I hereby declare that upon any statutory appointment of new Trustees of this my Will the number of Trustees may be augmented or reduced And further that no Trustee shall be chargeable or liable as for any wilful default or breach of trust by reason or in consequence of any act deed steps proceeding or thing made done or taken refused forborne or omitted by or under the advise in writing of their his or her Counsel in the Law In witness thereof I the said David King have hereunto set my hand this twenty sixth day of October in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy seven.

*(Signed)* DAVID KING.

Signed and declared by the said David King the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses :—

JANE JACOBS

3 The Terrace Upper Norwood.

EDWARD BETTELY

Clerk to Messrs. Ellis and Crossfield,  
16 Mark Lane London.



No. 3 THE TERRACE,  
FARQUHAR ROAD,  
NORWOOD.  
9th May, 1878.

I HEREBY REVOKE the exception made in my Will as regards the husband of my daughter Ellen Samuel and my will now is that in case of the death of the said Ellen Samuel without issue he should enjoy during his lifetime the same benefits as she enjoyed during her lifetime. Should she die leaving issue such issue to share the same benefits as are provided for the issue of my other Children I also declare my Will to be that the sale of my properties shall be at the sole discretion of my Trustees both during my wife's lifetime or after her decease.

(Signed) DAVID KING.

Signed in the presence of:—

LEAH ELIZA DOVER  
14 Albert Terrace  
New Town Norwood  
ELIZABETH A. KING  
Heath Cottage  
Beulah Hill

(Affidavit of due execution filed.)

PROVED at London with a Codicil 24th June 1878 by the oaths of Franklin Sydney King the Son and Charles Bryant the Executors to whom administration was granted.

13

THE WILL OF ELIZABETH KING,  
WIDOW OF DAVID KING.

*Born 1813. Died 1886*

I ELIZABETH KING of No. 3 Farquhar Terrace, Upper Norwood in the County of Surrey Widow hereby revoke all testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last Will. I give to my daughter Helen Samuel the wife of John Samuel my brooch with my husband's likeness

in it my gold watch and chain and my brown satin and purple dresses. I give to my daughter Martha Hannah Ann Ashby wife of John Thomas Ashby my gold earrings brooch and bracelet and the remainder of my wearing apparel. I devise and bequeathe all my real personal estate whatsoever (except what I have otherwise disposed of by this my Will) to my son Charles Arthur King now living with me absolutely. And I appoint him sole Executor of this my Will. In Witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand this ninth day of February One thousand eight hundred and eighty six.

(Signed) E. KING.

Signed by the said Elizabeth King the Testatrix as her last Will in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our Names as attesting witnesses :—

FRANKLIN S. KING,  
Highfield, East Croydon.  
E. GREEDY,  
62, New Bond Street.

14

EXTRACTS FROM WILLS.

1. *Andrew Moon of Leigh, Coalminer.*

Will dated 29th April 1660 ; proved 29th April 1661.

One Thomas King signs as witness, doubtless the husband of Sabrina King, who is probably a daughter of Andrew Moon.

2. *Philip Raynes of Leigh, Gentleman.*

Will dated 30th April 1683 ; proved 2nd May 1684.

He left to "my servant maid Susan King the bed bedstead and furniture thereto belonging whereon she now lodges." Nothing else is known about this Susan King, and there is nothing to indicate any connection with our family.

He frequently refers to his nephew John Raynes, son of his brother William Raynes. This John Raynes was one of the trustees of William King Senior, who had married his sister Joan Raynes, the niece of Philip Raynes.

This will is witnessed by William King and William Sayer of Leigh Yeoman, the latter in 1705 married William King's widow Joan King and died in 1723.

*Note.*—This Philip Raynes is not the same as the Philip Raynes who married Ann Scuddimore at Kilmersdon on 3rd February 1684.

There is a Memorial Inscription on the floor of Leigh Church to John Raynes, who died in 1749, aged eighty-four years, and to certain of his descendants.

3. *John Cornish of Leigh, Yeoman.*

Will dated 10th December 1694; proved 2nd March 1695.

Appointed as one of his trustees William King of Leigh, Stocking Maker, who is the same as the William King witnessing the previous will.

4. *William Sayer of Leigh, Yeoman.*

Will dated 6th December 1722; proved 1723.

He left to "my kinsman Richard Clark Senior of Leigh-upon-Mendip aforesaid Husbandman, all that house and garden with the appurtenances called "Mopsons" situate in Leigh-upon-Mendip aforesaid during the term of his natural life."

The house called "Mopsons" is probably the same as the house called "Moxhams" left by Clark King to his nephew Philip King in 1780. Richard Clark married Sarah Smithfield of Leigh in 1681, and Elizabeth the wife of William King Junior, who was born in 1681, was probably their daughter.

5. *John Gilbert of Leigh, Gentleman.*

Will dated 21st September 1742; proved 27th May 1749.

He left to "my servant Betty the dwelling house paddock and appurtenances in Leigh wherein Edward King now lives."

This is probably Edward King the younger, but might be his uncle Edward King the elder, who died in 1762.



6. *John Shartman of Wedmore, Surgeon.*

Will dated 16th January 1761 ; proved 16th March 1762.

He left two closes of land, Moorway Close and Coombe Close, both at Wedmore, to his grand-daughter Frances Dyer and her descendants.

This Frances Dyer was the daughter of John Dyer of Wedmore and Frances Shartman his wife ; she was born at Wedmore in 1755, married Edward King at Leigh in 1774, and died in 1828.

7. *Philip Stevens of Leigh, Gentleman.*

Will dated 2nd August 1786 ; proved 3rd July 1790.

" I give to Martha the wife of George Padfield (late Martha King Spinster) the sum of fifty pounds, etc."

" I give to Ann West wife of John West of Frome Selwood Peruke Maker the sum of fifty pounds."

" I give to Prudence the wife of Charles Sims of Paulton the sum of forty pounds."

" I give to Prudence the wife of Joseph Millard of Frome Selwood Handlesetter the sum of twenty pounds, etc."

" I give to William King brother of the said Prudence Millard twenty pounds."

" I give to Sarah King who now lives with me as a servant the sum of twenty pounds."

" I give to Betty Cornish (my late wife's sister) two shillings a week to be paid her on Saturday in each week during her natural life etc."

This Philip Stevens married Martha King, youngest daughter of William King Junior, in 1754, and is described in the Marriage Licence Register as a Stocking Maker.

Prudence Sims was the daughter of Betty Cornish, his wife's sister : Ann West and Prudence Millard were daughters of his wife's brother Edward King, by his first wife, and William King was Edward King's son by his second wife : Martha Padfield is the same as Patty King, daughter of his wife's nephew Philip King. Sarah King might be the widow of his wife's brother Edward King, or the widow of her younger brother William King, or neither.

There is a Memorial Inscription on the floor of Leigh Church to Philip Stevens and his wife, as follows : “ Here lieth the Body of Martha the wife of Philip Stevens Gent who departed this life April 29th 1779 Aged 62 years. . . . Also the Body of Philip Stevens Gent. who departed this life August . . . 1789. Aged . . . years.”

8. *David Padfield of Coleford, Yeoman*

Will dated 27th May 1807 ; proved 23rd September 1817.

“ I give and bequeath unto Mary Flower daughter of the late Nathaniel Flower a note of hand for money owing to and due from John Tucker to me. I also give to the four children of the said Mary Flower viz :—Ann Flower, David Flower, Martha King and Mary Flower the sum of fifty pounds each, etc.”

The phraseology of this will is due to an irregularity in the marriage of David Padfield and Mary Flower. In consequence the children took the double name of Padfield Flower. Martha King is the wife of William King, and died at Coleford in 1833, her sister Mary married in 1821 John Bryant, whose brother Charles Bryant married Betsy the daughter of William and Martha King.

9. *George Padfield of Leigh, Yeoman.*

Will dated 3rd October 1833 ; proved 3rd March 1838.

He left to his wife Patty Padfield the interest on £300 invested in stock, the use for life of all household goods and furniture, and the interest for life on the value of the residue of his estate, which was to be realized and invested.

This George Padfield was the son of James and Susannah Padfield, and a nephew of David Padfield of Coleford. His wife Patty is the daughter of Philip King, and the same as the Martha Padfield mentioned in the will of Philip Stevens.

10. *Elizabeth Clothier of Leigh, Widow.*

Will dated 25th February 1840 ; proved 24th September 1844.

She appoints Thomas Nicholas of Leigh, and William King her trustees and executors.

She leaves a house at Leigh occupied by John Ashman in trust “ for the only proper use and behoof of Frances

Bryant (a daughter of Charles Bryant and Elizabeth his wife), etc.”

She leaves a house at Leigh occupied by Thomas Gerett in trust “for the only proper use benefit and behoof of Charles Bryant (a son of the said Charles Bryant and Elizabeth his wife), etc.”

“I give devise and bequeath unto Abraham Dyer King (son of the said William King by Martha his late wife) all that my Tenement or Dwelling House now in the occupation of George Causley and near to the church in the Parish of Wedmore in the said County of Somerset, To hold the same with the appurtenances unto the said Abraham Dyer King his heirs and assigns for ever.”

She leaves a sum of £100 on trust to be invested “for the benefit or support of Elizabeth Bryant and David Bryant (children of the aforesaid Charles Bryant and Elizabeth his wife), etc.”

“I give my black silk shawl to Susan wife of William Clothier, all the rest of my wearing apparel I give to the said Mary Season, and the said Elizabeth Bryant the Mother, equally to be divided between them.”

“I give devise and bequeath all the rest residue and remainder of my estate property and effects unto the said William King and his children Abraham Dyer King, Isaac King, David King and Elizabeth, wife of Charles Bryant (subject to the payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses) equally to be divided between them.”

This Elizabeth Clothier was the youngest daughter of John Dyer and Frances Shartman his wife; she was born at Wedmore in 1764, married William Clothier of Leigh in 1817, and died at Leigh in 1844. Her husband had been an apprentice to Clark King and married his master's niece Betty, the daughter of Edward King, in 1767, but she died in 1787. William Clothier died intestate in 1831, and no grant of administration was taken out until 1842.

Thomas Nicholas was a son of Samuel Nicholas, who married Rebecca Dyer, sister of Elizabeth Clothier.



11. *Elizabeth Hart of Finsbury, Widow.*

Will dated 25th October 1847 ; proved 8th March 1854.

“ I direct the whole of my property of whatsoever nature or kind to be divided equally between the following persons, viz. :—my son Thomas Hart of New Cross Deptford, and my daughters Hannah the wife of James Yates, and Martha the wife of Isaac King, share and share alike, and if any one or more of the said parties shall die before this my Will takes effect, I direct the share of him or her or them so dying, to be paid to the child or children he she or they may leave surviving, etc.”

Elizabeth Evans came from Stroud and was born in 1781 ; she married William Hart, a Woolcomber of Minchinhampton in Gloucester. They settled eventually in London, and had three children :—

1. Thomas Hart, who lived at Deptford, married and left two children, Thomas and Rebecca.
2. Hannah Hart, who married a sailor, James Yates, by whom she had a son James, who married a sister of Eliza Christiana Adams, the wife of his cousin Walter King.
3. Martha Hart, the wife of Isaac King.

Elizabeth Hart was buried beside her daughter Martha in Brompton Cemetery.

## 15

## NOTE ON SEARCHES MADE FOR WILLS

Careful and thorough searches for Wills relating to our family have been made at Wells, and at Somerset House. It is important that the results of these searches should be placed on record, in order to save future investigators into the history of our family from unnecessary trouble.

At Wells, in 1912, the Index of Wills was searched from 1543 to 1648 for Wills of Kings of Leigh, and the neighbouring villages, but without results. The Index of Wills from 1661 to 1839 was also searched, and all the wills of persons residing at Leigh-upon-Mendip, as well as some others, were examined,

the numbers seen amounting to 98. It should be noted that all wills between 1649 and 1660 were proved in London. Grants of administration were not examined. There are also a great number of inventories of personal estate at Wells, probably sorted in bundles for years only, none of these were seen. The following Wills of persons not residing at Leigh-upon-Mendip, were examined on the chance that they might relate to our family, but without result.

- 1703 Henry King of Frome.
- 1705 Mary King of Frome.
- 1731 Thomas King of Frome.
- 1759 Thomas King of Nunney.
- 1760 Betty King of Frome.
- 1763 Thomas King of Frome.
- 1774 Edward King of Frome.
- 1798 John King of Nunney.

At Somerset House, in 1912, a search was made by Leonard Reginald King, and the wills of William King, proved in 1701, and of his eldest son William, proved in 1746, were discovered. A thorough search was made for wills proved between 1648 and 1661, and the following were examined, but without results.

- 1648 Thomas King of Sedgehill, Wilts.
- 1648 William King of Leckhampton, Glos.
- 1649 Nicholas King of Stourton, Wilts.
- 1649 William King of Yborne St. George.
- 1650 John King of Glastonbury.
- 1651 Thomas King of Shaston.
- 1649 Robert King of Cudworth, Som.
- 1649 Thomas King of Brocklie, Som.
- 1649 Robert King of Stookley, Wilts.
- 1654 Timothy King of Weeks St. Lawrence.
- 1658 Thomas King of Northnewbald.
- 1659 Thomas King of Mudgley, Wedmore.
- 1660 Thomas King of Wanstrow, Som.

At Somerset House in 1916 Leonard Reginald King made a further search for wills and grants of administration of Kings of Somerset between 1631 and 1815, resulting in the discovery of the Will of Daniel King, proved in 1721. The following wills were also examined, but apparently have nothing to do with our family :—

- 1638 Richard King of Winford.

- 1639 John King of Brocklie.
- 1645 Roger King of Alton.
- 1649 Thomas King of Brocklie.
- 1650 John King of Glastonbury.
- 1653 Henry King of Glastonbury.
- 1657 Joan King of Glastonbury.
- 1657 Arthur King of Chew Magna.
- 1659 Thomas King of Mudgley.
- 1660 Thomas King of Wanstrow.
- 1660 Joanna King of Brocklie.
- 1662 Henry King of Marke.
- 1672 John King of Pitcomb.
- 1678 Robert Tabor of Westcombe.

He also searched for wills of the following Somerset families between the periods specified, in the hope of finding references to our own family, but without results :—

- 1700-1760 Clark.
- 1769-1815 Clothier of Leigh.
- 1732-1812 Cornish.
- 1750-1815 Dean.
- 1761-1815 Decoster.
- 1677-1815 Dyer.
- 1811-1815 Farr of Witham.
- 1778-1815 Flower of Leigh.
- 1788-1815 Hiscox of Leigh.
- 1705-1814 Holbrook of Leigh.
- 1708-1760 Lacey.
- 1810-1815 Lane of Leigh.
- 1783-1815 Millard of Frome.
- 1640-1700 Moon.
- 1733-1786 Naish of Frome.
- 1749-1815 Osborne of Kilmersdon.
- 1785-1815 Padfield of Kilmersdon.
- 1675-1720 Raynes.
- 1675-1770 Season.
- 1655-1770 Sparke.
- 1753-1815 Syms of Paulton.
- 1675-1770 Tabor.
- 1723-1784 Tapp.
- 1728-1806 Taylor of Leigh.
- 1765-1815 West of Frome.



## APPENDIX D.

### FAMILY RELICS

Owing to the vicissitudes of fortune, there are very few relics of the past of our family now in existence, but there is a small collection of objects of interest in the possession of Colonel Edwin James King, which will become of increasing interest with the passage of time. After the death of Francis William Mark King in 1920, there passed into Colonel King's possession the following articles which came from the old home at Leigh-upon-Mendip, namely :—

1. The four old family portraits, painted about 1717.
  - a.* Ensign Thomas King.
  - b.* Fruzan King, his wife.
  - c.* Jonathan King, their son.
  - d.* Mrs. Constable, the mother of Fruzan King.
2. Three pieces of silver.
  - a.* A tankard with the hall-marks 1775-76, and the monogram W.C.B.D., supposed to stand for William Clothier and Betty Dyer, possibly a wedding present.
  - b.* A cream-jug with the hall-marks 1794-95, and the initials A.W.
  - c.* Another smaller cream-jug with the hall-marks 1743-44.
3. A large oblong mirror, said to be from Leigh-upon-Mendip.
4. The old bellows mentioned in a letter of William King, dated 30th October, 1843, on which has been placed a brass plate with the following inscription :—

“ These bellows were given by  
William King of Leigh  
to his son  
Abraham Dyer King  
in 1843 and had then been  
in possession of the family  
for over 150 years.”

These bellows must in all probability have belonged to Thomas King, the first of our family to settle at Leigh-upon-Mendip.

5. A collection of letters from William King to his son Abraham Dyer King, together with some other family papers the earliest dated 1744.

There are also the following family relics in the possession of Colonel King given to him on his first visit to Leigh-upon-Mendip in 1893 by Elizabeth Bryant of Frome, a daughter of Betsy King, namely :—

1. The prayer-book of her grandfather William King, published in 1818.
2. A pair of brass candlesticks that had also belonged to William King.
3. A small sampler worked at Leigh School about 1796 by Charlotte King, youngest daughter of Edward King and Frances Dyer, who later married John West of Taunton.
4. Two illustrated examples of handwriting done at Leigh School by her uncle Isaac King, dated 'Xmas, 1817, when he was aged eight, and 'Xmas, 1818, aged nine.

Many years later Elizabeth Bryant's younger sister, Emily Jane Bryant of Frome, gave to him the beautiful sampler worked at Leigh School in 1841 by her eldest sister, Frances King Bryant.

There are also three relics of Mark King of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, in the possession of Colonel King.

1. A very handsome secretaire.
2. His writing desk ; this is the " portable writing desk " mentioned in the will of Mark King's widow Mary King.
3. A copy of his miniature, the original of which is in the possession of Mrs. Dorothy Watt.

The other family relics of interest in the possession of Colonel King are :—

1. A sampler worked by Elizabeth Gent in 1821 at the age of eight : she married David King, of Norwood, at

St. Pancras Church in 1838, and died in 1877. Formerly in the possession of her youngest son Charles Arthur King.

2. A handsome grandfather clock by Dashwood, of London, formerly belonging to Isaac King.
3. Two miniatures of Isaac King both painted from photographs, one at about fifty years of age, and the other at sixty-five.
4. An old print of Charman Dean, the residence of Alfred King, of about 1840.
5. A large collection of old family photographs.



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STONEBRIDGE HOUSE, BRISTOL.











